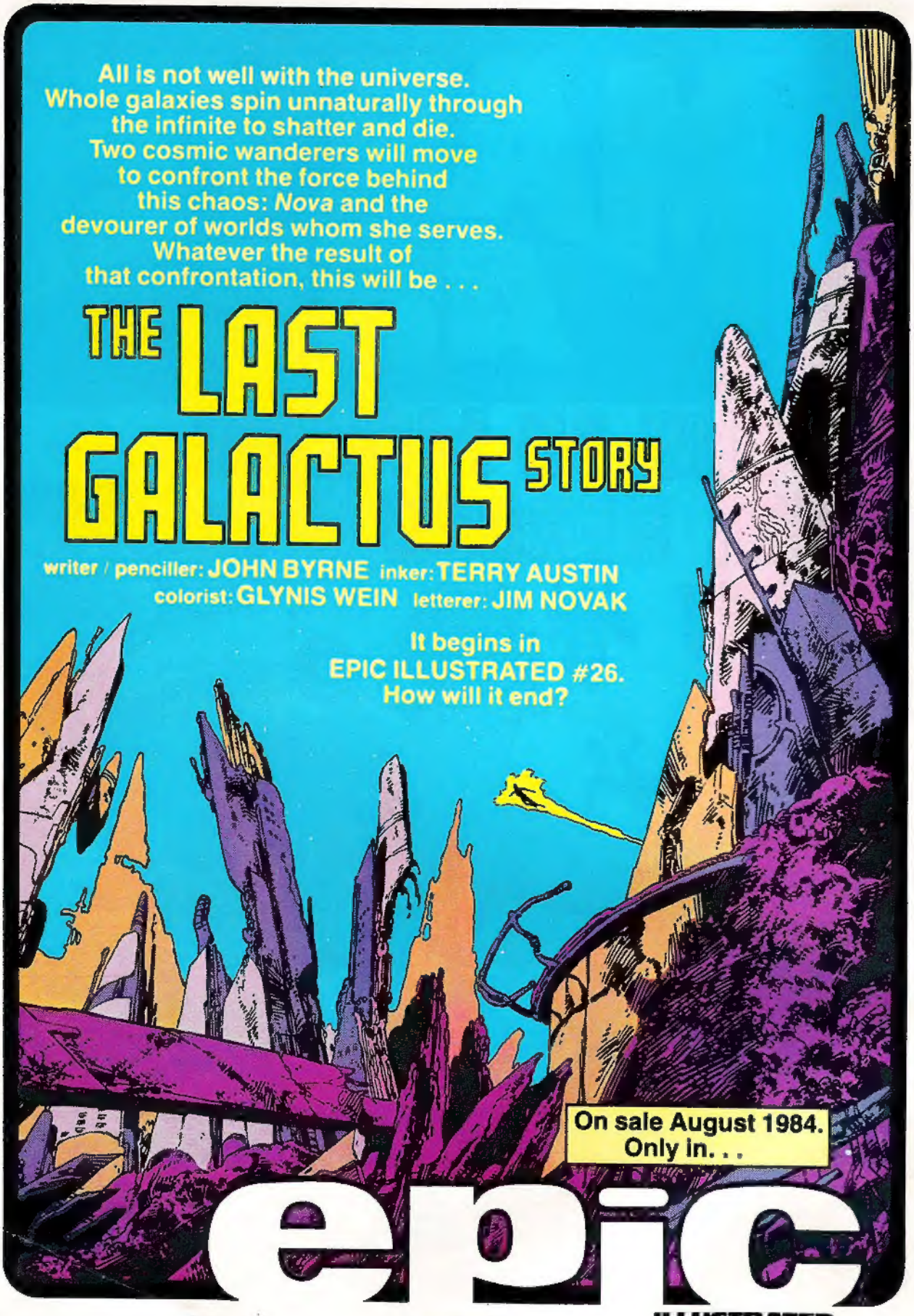
MARVEL
SECRET WARS FAN MAIL
THE OFFICIAL MARVEL NEWS MAGAZINE!
MARVEL AGE
ONLY 35¢
20
NOV
LETTERS TO MARVEL SUPER HEROES SECRET WARS
DEAR JIM: CAN'T WAIT FOR THE NEXT ISSUE TO FIND OUT IF
KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!
DEAR JIM:


All is not well with the universe.
Whole galaxies spin unnaturally through the infinite to shatter and die.
Two cosmic wanderers will move to confront the force behind this chaos: *Nova* and the devourer of worlds whom she serves.
Whatever the result of that confrontation, this will be . . .
THE LAST GALACTUS STORY
writer / penciller: JOHN BYRNE inker: TERRY AUSTIN
colorist: GLYNIS WEIN letterer: JIM NOVAK
It begins in EPIC ILLUSTRATED #26.
How will it end?
On sale August 1984.
Only in. . .
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ILLUSTRATED

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EDITORIAL

"What's An Editor To Do?"
by **Jim Salicrup**

I've discovered over the years that very few fans have any idea what a comic book editor, let alone a lowly assistant editor, actually does. One of the factors that contributes to the mystery is that each team of editors often has its own unique way of carrying out its responsibilities. **Larry Hama** and **Jim Owsley's** working relationship and style of editing is as different from **Mike Carlin** and **Mike Higgins'** as **Bill Sienkiewicz's** art style is from **John Byrne's.** They're all great, just different. But that still leaves the question, what do editors do? unanswered.

When I think of my working relationship with **Mark Lerer** I'm reminded of the classic sequence from **FANTASTIC FOUR** #57. You remember when **Doctor Doom** lured the naive, cosmic-powered **Silver Surfer** into his castle and proceeded to literally drain the **Surfer** of all his power? When reading the many fan letters that **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE** garners every month I feel just like the bad **Doctor** when he was flying high on the **Surfer's** board. In other words, **Mark's** responsible for much of what you like in these pages. Heck, in recent months **Mark's** even been pasting up the type and pictures on the pages! As much as I don't want to imagine what an issue of

Lerer, by **Salicrup**

this merry mag would be without **Mr. Lerer's** editorial assistance, I'm afraid I'm going to find out next issue. Yes, just as **Doc Doom** couldn't hold onto the power cosmic for long, I'm unable to keep **Mark** chained to his desk any longer. **Mark** will be moving on to an editorial position at **Stagebill Magazine** that'll be keeping him pretty busy, but no so busy that he won't still have time to grace us with a feature article or interview every now and then. So we haven't completely lost **Mark** and his ever-present puckish wit.

Maybe someday I'll get around to telling you what an editor really does, but right now let's just wish **Mark** lots of luck with all his future endeavors and get on with the rest of this issue!

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MARVEL COMING ATTRACTIONS

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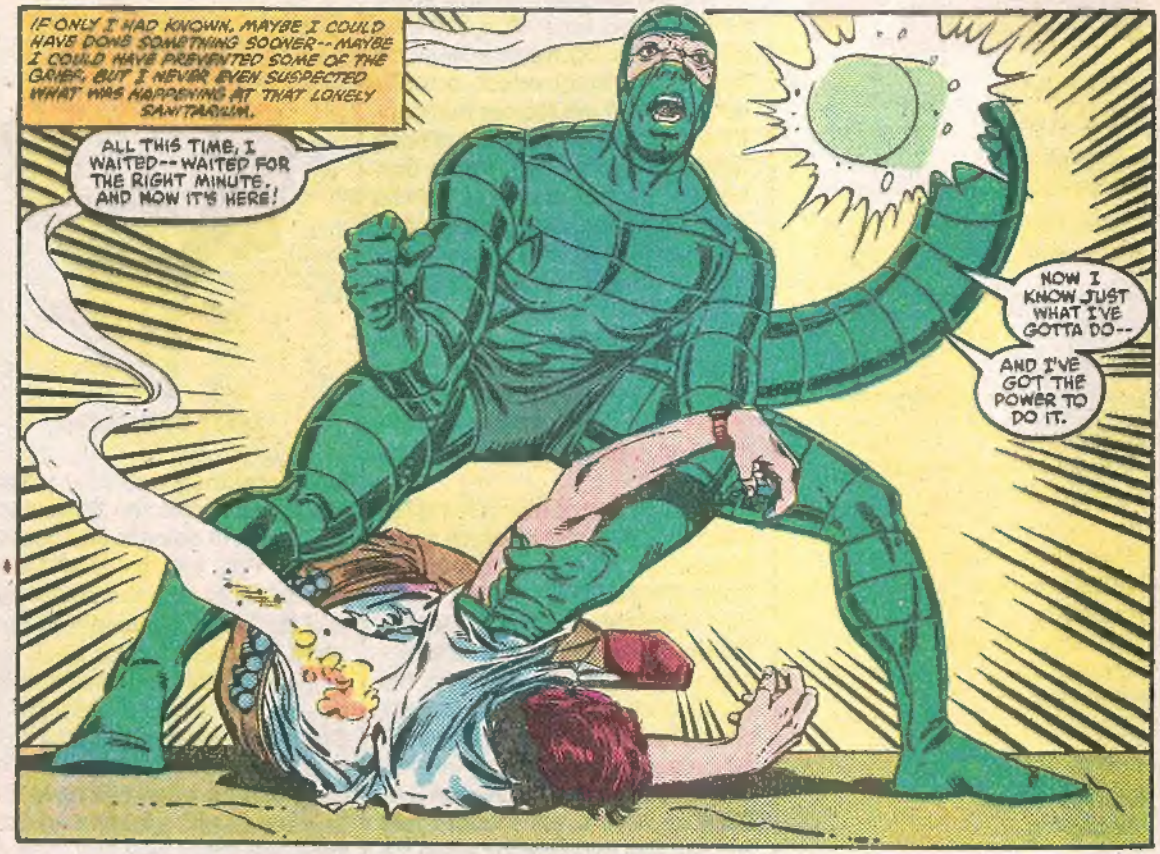
IF ONLY I HAD KNOWN. MAYBE I COULD HAVE DONE SOMETHING SOONER--MAYBE I COULD HAVE PREVENTED SOME OF THE GRIEF. BUT I NEVER EVEN SUSPECTED WHAT WAS HAPPENING AT THAT LONELY SANITARIUM.
ALL THIS TIME, I WAITED--WAITED FOR THE RIGHT MINUTE. AND NOW IT'S HERE!
NOW I KNOW JUST WHAT I'VE GOTTA DO--
AND I'VE GOT THE POWER TO DO IT.

The **Scorpion's** back — and **Stan Lee's** got 'im! Coming in **SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL** #18!

Here is a complete checklist of what's happening in all the Marvel titles bearing a December cover date. A **Limited Series** is a title which will only run for a specific number of issues. A **Graphic Novel** is a trade-paperback sized edition. A **Direct Sales** title is available only at selected outlets. **Shipping date** refers to the date the comics leave the printer. *Warning*: Be sure to reserve the copies of your favorite title as soon as possible! Marvel Comics sell out so fast that unless your favorite comics shop owner which ones you want, they might be gone before you can get them! And we don't want anyone to run the risk of missing out on what's happening!

Titles shipping **August 7**, on sale **August 28**:

THE THING #18 — **Ben Grimm** . . . a *father*? Believe it! The saga of **Rocky Grimm, Space Ranger** takes an even wilder course when **Ben** and **Tarianna** become the unexpected parents of an orphaned baby! And with **Annihilus** and his bat-winged hordes of death about to strike, can even **Ben** successfully protect his new son? Find out in "A Family Man?" written by **Bob Harras**, penciled by **Ron Wilson** and inked by **Joe Sinnott**! 60¢.

DAREDEVIL #213 — The cliffhanging penultimate chapter in the **Micah Synn** epic! But at the same time, **Foggy** learns to his horror that everything **Daredevil** has been saying about **Micah Synn** is diabolically true! "The Blindness Men Wish For" is written by **Denny O'Neil**, penciled by **David Mazzucchelli** and inked by **Danny Bulanadi**! 60¢.

NEW MUTANTS #20 — **Nightcrawler** gives **Cannonball** a training session! **Selene** meets **the Hellfire Club**! And **Rahne** "writes" a fairy tale — one that is definitely not designed for bedtime! "The Shadow Within!" is written by **Chris Claremont**, and penciled and inked by **Bill Sienkiewicz**! Cover by **Bill Sienkiewicz**. 60¢.

MARVEL SUPER HEROES SECRET WARS (Limited Series) #8 — At last, the story everybody's been waiting for — **Spider-Man** gets his new costume! And if that's not enough, there's non-stop cover-to-cover action in this chapter of the greatest cosmic adventure of all! "Invasion!" is written by **Jim Shooter**, penciled by **Mike Zeck** and inked by **John Beatty**! 75¢. High quality Mando paper.

WEST COAST AVENGERS (Limited Series) #4 — The title "Finale" only begins to tell the trouble our California-based super group is in! Will the team

stick together or will it break up? Or will **Graviton** destroy them before the super-heroes even have a chance to decide? Written by **Roger Stern**, penciled by **Bob Hall** and inked by **Brett Breeding**! 75¢. High Quality Mando paper.

MACHINE MAN (Limited Series) #3 — A sanctuary is supposed to be a place where you're safe! **Machine Man** finds out how quickly his haven turns into a deadly trap when Sanctuary is invaded by **Sunset Bain's** hordes led by . . . the **Iron Man of 2020**! "Rime of the Ancient Wrecker!" written by **Tom DeFalco**, with breakdowns by **Herb Trimpe** and finishes by **Barry Windsor-Smith**. 75¢. High Quality Mando paper.

ICEMAN (Limited Series) #1 — **White Light** and **The Idiot** are their names! But what they want and who they work for, no one knows! But one thing's for sure, **Iceman** must stop them before they wreck his hometown! Written by **J. Marc DeMattels**, penciled by **Alan Kupperberg** and inked by **Mike Gustovich**! 75¢. High Quality Mando paper.

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST (Limited Series) #1 — Takes up where **THE DAZZLER Graphic Novel** left off! Special Guest Villain: **Doctor Doom**! **Dazzler** is totally discredited — her life is in shambles! She turns to others for help, only to fall into the wrong hands! Can **the Beast** save her before it's too late? "Beauty and the Beast" is written by **Ann Nocenti**, penciled by **Don Perlin** and inked by **Kim Demulder**! 75¢. High Quality Mando paper.

SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL #18 — A triumphant return engagement — script by **Stan Lee**! A special event like this means a special story and this is it! **J. Jonah Jameson** is getting married, but if **The Scorpion** has his way, it'll be **JJJ's** funeral, and nothing **Spidey** can do will stop it! **"The Scorpion** Takes a Bride!" is plotted by **Tom DeFalco**, penciled by **Ron Frenz**, and inked by **Bob Layton**! $1.00.

DREADSTAR #14 — The shattering conclusion of the 14-issue **Dreadstar / Lord Papal** War! **Vanth** and **Lord Papal** are locked in the ultimate fight to the finish! **This time, Lord Papal** has vowed **Vanth** will not escape — and he's just the villain to see that **Vanth** doesn't! Introducing the double-trouble menace of **Ultra Violet** and **Infra Red**! Written and penciled by **Jim Starlin**, inked by **Sam de la Rosa**! From the Epic Comics line. $1.50. High Quality Baxter paper. Direct sales only.

CRASH RYAN #1 — New from the Epic Line of Comics! **Ron Harris's** high flying creation comes to life! High quality Hudson paper. $1.50.

Titles shipping **August 4**, on sale **September 4**:

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #259 — The long-hidden secrets of **Mary Jane Watson's** past finally revealed! **And, if you thought Spidey had his hands full fighting the Hobgoblin** before, wait'll you see what happens now! Plus: new developments on **Spidey's** costume! "The Tragic Past of **Mary Jane Watson!**" is written by **Tom DeFalco**, penciled by **Ron Frenz** and inked by **Josef Rubinstein**! 60¢.

INDIANA JONES #24 — The Incas possessed many secrets, one of which is hidden in a vault that can only be unlocked with a human sacrifice! And that's just what **Indy's** rival, the archeologist **Klexx**, plans to do! "Revenge of the Ancients!" is written and penciled by **Herb Trimpe**, with finished art by **Danny Bulanadi**! 60¢.

POWER PACK #5 — The **Power** family returns home and tries to reassemble their lives on earth! But that return to normalcy will be short-lived — literally! Because unknown to the kids, **General Carmody** is out to kill them! "Homecoming" is written by **Louise Simonson** with layouts by guest-artist **Mary Wilshire** and finished art by **Bob Wiacek**! 60¢.

MICRONAUTS #3 — What is the incredible secret behind **Huntarr's Egg**? And will **the Micronauts** be able to discover it before they die of the radiation poisoning they don't even know is killing them? "In The Country Of The Blind" is written by **Peter Gillis**, penciled by **Kelley Jones**, and inked by **Bruce Patterson**! 60¢.

ALPHA FLIGHT #17 — **Alpha Flight** meets **the X-Men**! This titanic story that heralds a new direction for the group features a special 9-page section from the chronicles of **the X-MEN**! Written, penciled and inked by **John Byrne**! 60¢.

DOCTOR STRANGE #68 — What is **the Black Knight's** terrible curse? **Doctor Strange** goes to England to find out — and help his friend before it's too late! Featuring the deadly return of **Umar**! "Sword and Sorcery!" is written by **Roger Stern**, penciled by **Paul Smith** and inked by **Terry Austin**!

KULL #7 — **Marie Severin**, who ignited fandom with her rendering of Valusia's greatest ero years ago, returns as inker! As if to commemorate the event, the story is a festive one — a great Masquerade Ball! But, behind the joyous facade lurks death! Also, **Brule the Spearslayer** must make a decision that will irrevocably affect his future in Valusia! "Masquerade" is written by **Alan Zelenetz**, and penciled by **John Buscema**! 60¢.

SUB-MARINER (Limited Series) #4 — Victory — and even greater defeat! **Sub-Mariner** discovers who is leading the attcks against him! But the **King of Atlantis** suffers the greatest loss of all! "The Road Not Taken!" is written by **J. Marc DeMattels**, penciled by **Bob Budiansky** and inked by **Danny Bulanadi**. 75¢. High quality Mando paper.

CAPTAIN AMERICA #300 — Special double-sized issue! **Cap** fights **the Red Skull**! Believing his friends dead, injected with poison, **Cap** goes after **the Red Skull** with a vengeance! "Das Ende" is written by **J.**

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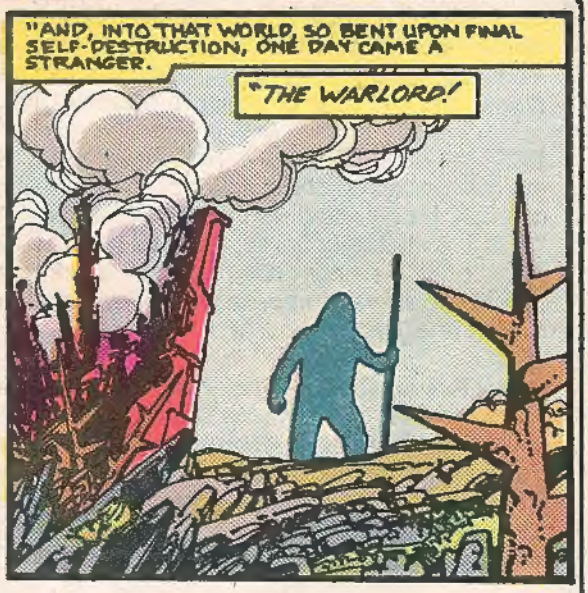


Marc DeMatteis, penciled by **Paul Neary** and inked by **Roy Richardson**! 48 pp. $1.00.

ROM ANNUAL #3 — Guest starring **the New Mutants**! And featuring the deadly return of **Hybrid**! His target: **Cannonball's** hometown of Cumberland! Also — the end of a Spaceknight! "The Prodigal Son" is written by **Bill Mantlo**, penciled by **William Johnson**, and inked by **Ian Akin** and **Brian Garvey**! 48 pp. $1.00.

SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #106 — The infamous **Captain Bor'agh Sharaq** returns from the dead! **Conan** and **Jessica** return to the mysterious island of the Giants and not only encounter the resurrected **Captain**, but also discover that the legendary Giants have returned to reclaim what is rightfully theirs! $1.50. A Marvel Magazine.

ALIEN LEGION #4 — **Lieutenant Torie Montroc** lies wounded on a battlefield and no one is around to help him because **Sarigar's** already declared him dead! This haunting tale of fear and survival is titled "The Killing Zone," written by **Alan Zelenetz**, penciled by **Frank Cirocco** and inked by **Terry Austin**! The back-up story is "Conscious" written by **Alan Zelenetz** and drawn by **Chris Warner**. $1.50. From the Epic comics line.

MARVEL SUPER SPECIAL #35: CONAN II — The Marvel movie adaptation of **CONAN THE DESTROYER**! Adapted by **Michael Fleisher**, penciled by **John Buscema** and inked by **John Buscema** and **Pat Redding**! $2.50.

Titles shipped **August 21**, on sale **September 11:**

INCREDIBLE HULK #302 — **The Hulk** is transported to another dimension full of iron-clad knights and maidens in distress . . . and where *everyone*, even the women and children, is stronger than he is! "The Lady of Life in the City of Death!" is written by **Bill Mantlo**, with layouts by **Sal Buscema** and finished art by **Gerry Talaoc**! 60¢.

CONAN #165 — **Nadine** becomes possessed by an evil spirit! **Conan** must drive the spirit out, but to do so, he must kill her! "Sceptre of the Dragon" is written by **Michael Fleisher**, penciled by **John Buscema** and inked by **Armando Gil**! 60¢.

MARVEL TALES #170 — "If This Be My Destiny" first presented in **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN** #31! Written by **Stan Lee** and drawn by **Steve Ditko**! 60¢.

X-MEN #188 — The shocking secrets of **Rachel's** past revealed! Meanwhile, **the X-Men** must make the most momentous decision of their lives — will they stay together or break the team up forever? "Legacy of the Lost!" is written by **Chris Claremont**, penciled by **John Romita, Jr.** and inked by **Dan Green**!! 60¢.

ROM #61 — **Rom** stands alone as **the Dire Wraiths** unleash their most diabolical and desperate scheme to take over the earth! "Beginning of the End of the World!" is written by **Bill Mantlo**, penciled by **Steve Ditko**, and premieres **Jackson Guice** in his first role as inker! 60¢.

POWER MAN AND IRON FIST #112 — A new villain — a new supporting character — and both spell trouble for everyone's favorite Heroes for Hire! The villain is **Control 7** and **Luke Cage** finds him caught in a deadly cross-fire when he must protect a young girl from them and from our own government! And introducing special **Government Security Agent Gordy**! He's rough, he's tough and he's mean — and he's on *our* side! For **Power Man** and **Iron Fist**, he's pure poison! "Bad Joe" is written by **Jim Owsley**, penciled by **Greg LaRocque** and inked by **Jerry Acerno**! 60¢.

G.I. JOE #30 — **The Dreadnoks** go on a rampage! Their target — an airbase! And **the Joes** can't stop them because **Cobra's** launching a major attack against them! High-powered action and adventure with America's greatest counter-terrorist strike force! "Darkness" is written by **Larry Hama**, penciled by **Frank Springer** and inked by **Andy Mushynsky**! 60¢.

AVENGERS #250 — Special double-sized issue! **Maelstrom** is launching his greatest attack of all — and drawing all the kinetic power from the earth to do it! **The East and West Coast Avengers** join forces — but is even their combined might strong enough to stop him? "World Power" is written by **Roger Stern**, penciled by **Al Milgrom** and inked by **Joe Sinnott**, **Ian Akin**, **Brian Garvey** and **Roy Richardson**! $1.00.

MARVEL GRAPHIC NOVEL #13 — **STARSTRUCK** — Based on the hit play! Written by **Elaine Lee** and illustrated by **Michael William Kaluta**! $6.95.

Titles shipping August 28, on sale September 18:

FANTASTIC FOUR #273 — This is the month for secrets to be revealed! **The FF** is fighting for its life in another time continuum where they confront their strangest enemy of all! What does **the Warlord** have to do with **Reed Richards**? And how will the knowledge he has affect the **FF**? "Fathers and Others!" is written, drawn and *lettered* by **John Byrne**! 60¢.

MARVEL TEAM-UP #148 — **Spider-Man** and **Thor** together against **the Black Abbott** and his savage **Black Apostles** in the culmination of the **Black Abbott** trilogy! **The Black Abbott** is out to steal the greatest prize of all — the powers of the mighty **Thor**! Plus: more developments on **Spidey's** costume! Cover by **Walt Simonson**! Written by **Cary Burkett**, penciled by **Greg LaRocque**, and inked by **Mike Esposito**! 60¢.

IRON MAN #189 — It's the new **Iron Man** vs. the old **Iron Man**! **Tony Stark** wants his new armor back, but **Rhodey** refuses! So **Tony** unearths one of his first **Iron Man** suits of armor! Written by **Denny O'Neil**, penciled by **Luke McDonnell** and inked by **Steve Mitchell**! 60¢.

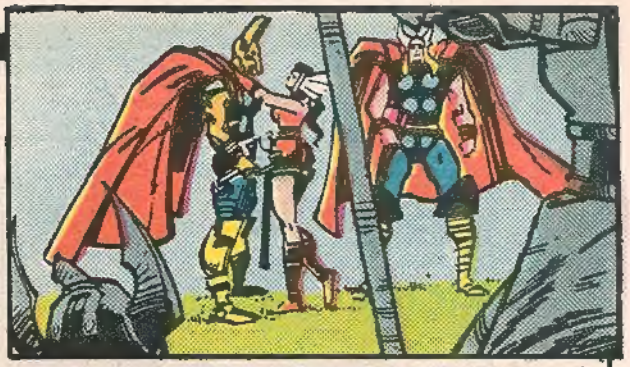
PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #97 — **Spidey** faces the one foe he can't fight — an ad-man! Plus: more on **Spidey** and **the Cat** and even more new developments with **Spidey's** costume! "Hermit-Age" is written by **Al Milgrom**, penciled by **Herb Trimpe** and inked by **Jim Mooney**! 60¢.

DEFENDERS #138 — **The Defenders** get a new leader! And **Moondragon** reveals more about her personality! "Three Women" is written by **Peter B. Gillis**, penciled by **Don Perlin** and inked by **Kim DeMulder**! 60¢.

STAR WARS #90 — **Rik**, **Dani** and **Chihdi** promise to be good, but no sooner do they land with **Luke** and **Leia** on Endor when they're up to their ears in trouble again! What is the future of **the Alliance**? **Luke**, **Leia** and the rebel leaders must decide — and fast! "The Choice!" is written by **Jo Duffy**, penciled by **Bob McLeod** and inked by **Tom Palmer**!

THOR #350 — Special guest-star issue! **The Avengers**! **The Fantastic Four**! All the heroes of **Midgard** and **Asgard** are arrayed against **Surtur** and his demonic **Sons of Muspell** to avert the Twilight of the Gods! "Ragnarok and Roll" is written and drawn by **Walt Simonson**! 60¢.

STARRIORS (Limited Series) #2 — The Quest for Man continues! But will **the Protector's** search be halted so soon after it begins? **The Destructors** vow that it will! And if **the Destructors** can't stop **the Protectors**, the deadly giant **Fire-Spider** will! "Under Fire" is written by **Louise Simonson**, penciled by **Michel Chen**, and inked by **Ian Akin** and **Brian Gar-**



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KITTY PRYDE AND WOLVERINE (Limited Series) #2 — **Kitty** lands in Japan and is immediately targeted for death by the Japanese underworld! Can **Wolverine** reach her in time — or will the Japanese overlords of crime succeed in slaying him, too? "Terror" is written by **Chris Claremont**, and penciled and inked by **Al Milgrom**! 75¢. High quality Mando paper.

CONAN ANNUAL #9 — What would you do if you landed on a mysterious gigantic iceberg and instead of encountering just ice and snow were acclaimed as gods by the berg's beautiful inhabitants? **Conan** and his band of pirates immediately embrace the inhabitants and embark on a non-stop celebration! But the festivities provide the fertile base for the unleashing of the dark side of the men's souls! "Wrath of the Shambling God" is written by **Michael Fleisher** and penciled by **Ernie Chan**! 48 pp. $1.00.

WHAT IF #48 — As of this writing, details are not available!

X-MEN ANNUAL #8 — **Illyana** tells a story — and what a story it is! This is one space opera you won't want to miss! "The Adventures of **Lockheed** the Spacedragon and His Pet Girl, **Kitty**" is written by **Chris Claremont**, and penciled and inked by **Steve Leialoha**!

DR. WHO #3 — Continuing the adventures of the bizarre British time-traveller! High quality Baxter paper. $1.50.

SIX FROM SIRIUS (Limited Series) #4 — The star-shattering conclusion! At last, **Phaedra** realizes the full potential of her power! But can she — *will* she — use it in time to prevent inter-galactic Armageddon? Written by **Doug Moench** and painted by **Paul Gulacy**! From the Epic comics line on high quality Hudson paper. $1.50.

TIME SPIRITS #1 — Call them Indians — call them wizards — call them fantastic! From the Epic comics line come the creations of **Steve Perry** and **Tom Yeates**! High quality Hudson stock. $1.50.

Note: The information that appears in "Coming Attractions" is as complete and accurate as we can manage. Occasionally changes are made after this column is put together. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause! ●

MORE COMING ATTRACTIONS

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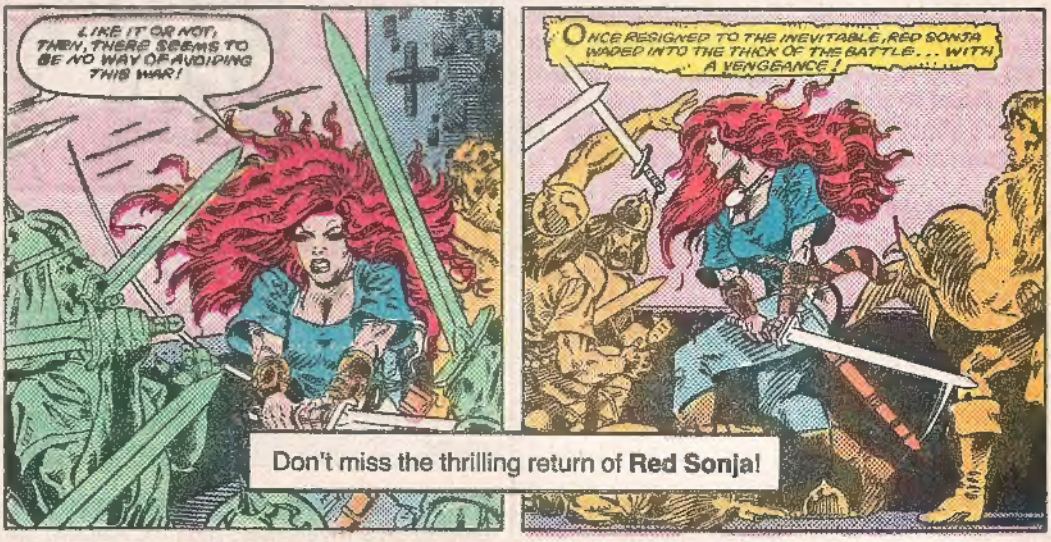
LIKE IT OR NOT, THEN, THERE SEEMS TO BE NO WAY OF AVOIDING THIS WAR!
ONCE RESIGNED TO THE INEVITABLE, RED SONJA WADED INTO THE THICK OF THE BATTLE... WITH A VENGEANCE!
Don't miss the thrilling return of Red Sonja!
RED SONJA Copyright © 1984 Red Sonja Corp. All rights reserved.

Shipping in September

THE THING #197 — By **Byrne, Wilson** and **Sinnott.**

DAREDEVIL #214 — By **O'Neil, Mazzucchelli,** and **Bulanadi.**

NEW MUTANTS #23 — Guest Stars: Cloak and Dagger! By **Claremont**, and **Sienkiewicz.**

DAZZLER #35 — Picks up where the Graphic Novel leaves off! By **Shooter, Springer** and **Colletta.** Cover by **Sienkiewicz.**

RED SONJA #5 — By **Mantlo** and **Pat Broderick.**

MARVEL SUPER HEROES SECRET WARS (Limited Series) #9 — By **Shooter, Zeck** and **Beatty.**

MACHINE MAN #4 — By **DeFalco** and **Windsor-Smith.**

ICEMAN #2 — By **J.M. DeMatteis, Alan Kupperberg** and **Mike Gustovich.**

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST (Limited Series) #2 — By **Nocenti, Perlin,** and **DeMulder.**

CONAN THE KING #26 — By **Zelenetz, Silvestri,** and **Isherwood.**

CRASH RYAN (Limited Series) #2 — By **Ron Harris.** From the Epic comics line.

Shipping in October:

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #260 — By **DeFalco, Frenz,** and **Rubinstein.**

CAPTAIN AMERICA #301 — By **Carlin, Neary,** and **Dennis Janke.**

INDIANA JONES #25 — By **L. Grant, Villamonte,** and **Bulanadi.**

POWER PACK #6 — By **L. Simonson, Brigman,** and **Wiacek.**

MICRONAUTS #4 — By **Gillis** and **K. Jones.**

PLANET TERRY #1 — New from Star Comics.

FRAGGLE ROCK #1 — New from Star Comics.

HEATHCLIFF #1 — New from Star Comics.

TRANSFORMERS (Limited Series) #3 — Guest-starring **Spider-Man.** By **Sallcrup, Springer,** and **DeMulder.** Cover by **Mike Golden.**

NEW MUTANTS ANNUAL #1 — By **Claremont** and **Bob McLeod.** Cover by **Mike Golden.**

SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #107 — By **Fleisher** and **Rudy Nebres.**

SISTERHOOD OF STEEL #1 — New from Epic Comics.

INCREDIBLE HULK #303 — By **Mantlo, S. Buscema,** and **Talaoc.**

AVENGERS #251 — Guest-starring **Paladin!** By **Stern, Bob Hall,** and **Sinnott.**

CONAN #166 — By **Fleisher** and **J. Buscema.**

X-MEN #189 — By **Claremont, Romita, Jr.,** and

Steve Leialoha.

ROM #62 — By **Mantlo**, **Ditko**, and **Akin** and **Garvey.**

POWER MAN AND IRON FIST #113 — By **Owsley, LaRocque** and **Acerno.**

G.I. JOE #31 — By **Hama, Rod Whigham** and **Andy Mushynsky.**

MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #22.

MARVEL FANFARE #18.

DREADSTAR #15 — By **Starlin**, from Epic.

VOID INDIGO #1 — By **Gerber** and **Mayerik**, from Epic.

FANTASTIC FOUR #274 — By **Byrne.** Guest starring **the Thing.**

IRON MAN #190 — Guest starring **the Scarlet Witch.** By **O'Neil, McDonnell,** and **Mitchell.**

PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #98 — By **Milgrom** and **Mooney.**

STAR WARS #91 — By **Duffy, Tony Salmons,** and **Palmer.**

WALLY THE WIZARD #1 — New from Star Comics.

TOP DOG #1 — New from Star Comics.

STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE #1 — New from Star Comics.

STARRIORS (Limited Series) #3 — By **L. Simonson, Chen,** and **Akin** and **Garvey.**

KITTY PRYDE AND WOLVERINE (Limited Series) #3 — By **Claremont** and **Milgrom.**

COYOTE #9 — By **Englehart, Truog** and **Richard Howell.** Plus "Djinn" by **Englehart, Ditko** and **Art Nichols.**

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST (Limited Series) #3 — By **Nocenti, Perlin,** and **DeMulder.**

MARVEL GRAPHIC NOVEL #14 — **SWASHBUCKLERS** — By **Bill Mantlo** and **Jackson Guice.**

NEW MUTANTS #24 — Guest starring **Cloak and Dagger.** By **Claremont** and **Sienkiewicz.**

CAPTAIN AMERICA #302 — By **Carlin, Neary** and **Janke.**

ALIEN LEGION #5 — By **Zelenetz, Cirocco** and **Warner.** From the Epic Comics Line.

CRASH RYAN (Limited Series) #3 — By **Ron Harris.** ●

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NEWSWATCH

Signals from the Marvel Space Station!

ITEM! Look for a brand new title starring the most famous wall-crawler of all time! **THE WEB OF SPIDER-MAN** premieres this December! **THE WEB OF SPIDER-MAN** will replace **MARVEL TEAM-UP**, which will end with its 150th issue. **Louise Simonson**, **Greg LaRocque**, and **Mike Esposito** will be the creative team. According to Editor **Danny Fingeroth**, **THE WEB OF SPIDER-MAN** will be incorporated even more tightly into the **Spider-Man** continuity. Watch for it!

ITEM! Effects upon the life of **Alison Blaire** in the **DAZZLER Graphic Novel** will have far-reaching implications. The fearful anti-mutant prejudice which once again rears its ugly head will affect every mutant in the Marvel Universe. Immediately following the Graphic Novel, the long-awaited **BEAUTY AND THE BEAST Limited Series** will begin the epic wave of shocks! Do not miss!

Marvel Comics and the entire industry lost one of its most respected and beloved professionals when **Sol Brodsky** died at age 61 this past June. **Sol** began work for Marvel in the 1940's as a penciler and inker. He continued to work for Marvel throughout the 1950's and was a major force behind the birth of the Marvel Age of comics in the 1960's. As production manager during that time, **Sol** was **Stan Lee's** right hand man during the 60's, handling the scheduling and creative assignments among other tasks.

Stan Lee wrote of **Sol**, "As a husband, father, co-worker, and friend, **Sol** enriched the lives of those who knew him. Today, we say goodbye to **Sol Brodsky** — we will remember this gentle, decent man with great love always."

ITEM! Fasten your seat belts . . . The **Dire Wraith** War will be coming to a dramatic climax in **ROM** #65! . . . The newest **Avenger** is none other than the **Black Knight**! He'll be joining up in issue #252. **Bob Hall** will be the penciler for issues #251-253 of that mag, with **Joe Sinnott** continuing as the regular inker . . . **Mike Carlin** will be the new regular writer for **CAPTAIN AMERICA** starting with issue #301 . . . The Casket of Ancient Winters from **THOR** will affect the storylines of many major Marvel titles in the coming months! . . . **David Mazzucchelli** will ink as well as pencil **DAREDEVIL** beginning with issue #214! . . . Finally, **QUESTPROBE** #2 will feature **Spider-Man** versus **Mysterio** in a story written and drawn by **Al Milgrom**!

ITEM! That's all for now . . . blast off!

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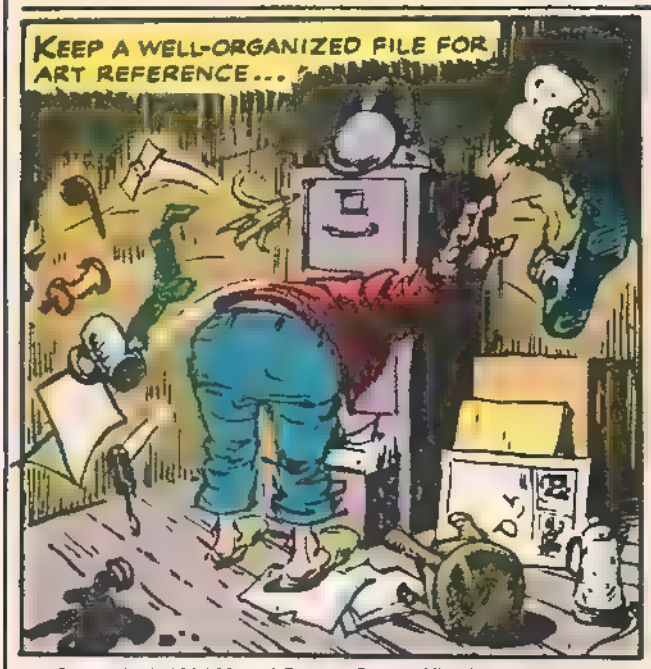
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, CLAUDE RUBIO ON PIANO!
HOW DO YOU DO THAT?
TRADE SECRET! IT'S JUST A LITTLE STAGE MAGIC! I DO IT WITH A GADGET!

BEHIND THE LINES



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A Few Quick Random Thoughts to Would-Be Comic Artists

by **Carl Potts**

I am often approached at conventions or store appearances by artists who are desperately trying to break into the tough-to-crack comics field. Their plight is something I can sympathize with, having gone through the same situation not quite a decade ago. I'll try to give those of you who want to draw comics some inside information and advice that will, perhaps, help you along.

First off, I was surprised to find out that there are a lot of would-be comic artists out there that seem to honestly believe they're pro caliber when their art is actually quite weak. Judging art is a very subjective process, but within our specific realm of heroic-action-and-adventure comics, there are some definite prerequisites that should be obvious. Good, clear story-telling is the most important aspect of comic art. Without it it's just not comics, because story-telling is what the medium is all about.

Next comes good drawing, which takes in a number of concepts: "realistic," or representational, anatomy, perspective, design, (how the positive and negative space is broken up, patterns of black areas, panel shapes and so on . . .) rendering style, research, mood, and a whole lot more we don't have time to go into! To help develop drawing ability, I usually recommend the following books: "Figure Drawing For All It's Worth" by Andrew Loomis (hardbound, Viking Press), "Drawing on the Right Side of the Brain" by Betty Edwards (softbound, J.P. Tarcher, Inc.) and "How to Use Creative Perspective" by Watson (softbound, Van Nostrand Reinhold).

If an artist thinks he's hot stuff and pro after pro tells him he's not, he should ask himself if it's possible that he's blind to his own weaknesses. For artists to improve, they have to be able to see their own weaknesses. It's probably not a good idea to act on the advice of one professional as though it were gospel without second, third and more opinions that all agree.

Most artists trying to break into the field are young — far too young to be concentrating on drawing *only* comics. It's best to be as versatile as possible and learn from a variety of art mediums. Someone who draws, paints, sculpts (and so on) a wide variety of subjects in a wide variety of styles in his formative years will bring a lot more working knowledge to a comics career than someone who spent all their time just trying to copy various comic artists' work.

Becoming a pro does not mean just being able to draw well. Pro artists have to have a professional attitude. That means each artist has to know what he's capable of and is responsible for not committing himself beyond that point. In other words, it's not professional to commit to drawing a monthly title when drawing that many pages a month means never sleeping! Better to pass it up than to screw up the schedule, get everyone else working on the project ticked off at you and then find it difficult to get any more work due to a bad reputation!

I hope these few quick thoughts of mine on this subject will help some of you to someday realize your goal of working in comics.

Good luck! ●

LETTERS TO MARVEL SUPER HEROES™ SECRET WARS™

It's just as we predicted — *SECRET WARS* is the hit of the decade!

Hundreds of letters have been pouring in every week since the series began. Some people are awe-struck, some are shocked, some are amazed — and *everybody* loves it! But let's let the readers speak for themselves. Because *SECRET WARS* does not have a letters page, *MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE* herewith presents a representative sample of the overwhelming mail response to the quintessential Marvel epic!

Wow! This is the best comic I've read in over a year. There's a rhythm, a lilt to the pencils and narrative. That pure action and adventure style compels me to turn every page — to read and re-read. Nobody's gonna stop reading in the middle of this mag — I'll tell ya that!

What I feel has **SECRET WARS** moving at a voluble pace is the series of conflicts **Jim Shooter** and **Mike Zeck** depict. **Magneto** thrown in with the heroes, **Ultron** challenging **Galactus**, **Dr. Doom** refusing to join forces with the no-goods, and the mild dispute over **Cap's** leadership — these elements add to my frenzied excitement. And then there's the whole sense of mystery and intrigue. Who is this bombastic **Beyonder** and why is he setting up this colossal match? I'm dying to find out. Let's not forget the humor — the coup de grace. It comes moments before scenes of major conflict, thereby not relieving tension but heightening it. This mag is truly . . . MARVEL-ous.

Grant Tracey
1126 Cabot Street
Peterborough, Ontario
CANADA K9H 6W9

I am a Washington Redskins fanatic and I can honestly say I look forward to the next issue of **SECRET WARS** as much as I do to the Super Bowl. What a compelling story this is already!

There is mystery and enormous potential for real action — action made meaningful by a writer's sound knowledge of all the characters involved. **Jim**, the interactive dialogue is at times brilliant. **Thor's** defense of **Captain America's** leadership was inspired! **Magneto**, **Galactus**, and **Doom** were all handled well . . . I hope **Doom** finds life after the wars are over!

Two requests. As you create this series, please continue to observe an extra-healthy respect for older, long-time Marvel fans. We want to have as much fun as the younger ones, but we appreciate how you keep a responsible view of what has gone before. Second, please keep the same creative team for the length of the series! Love what you're doing!

Noel Pratt
3637 Appleton St. NW
Washington, D.C. 20008

You've sure got a winner going with **MARVEL SUPER HEROES SECRET WARS**. One thing, though. In the first issue, page six, panel one, it shows the good guys and the bad guys watching a galaxy being destroyed. Now I figure that if our heroes could see the whole galaxy from where they were, they must have been many light years away and they would not have known a whole galaxy was being destroyed for many years. I have an explanation, though! **The Beyonder** has been planning the Secret Wars for many years, so he destroyed the galaxy many years before the heroes got there. Then, when the time was right, the earthmen were "beamed" to that point in space just in time to see the galaxy destroyed.

P.J. Disclafani
104 Hagan Ct.
Cary, NC 27511

One of the main things I love about **THE SECRET WARS** is watching **Dr. Doom's** quest for power. Also, I liked the fact that even though you have many characters in the story, you managed to have the characters show that they are human by expressing their feelings.

Robert Moon

6756 Johnson Rd
Potterville, MI 48876

Michael Zeck, John Beatty, and **Christie Scheele** do an excellent job on **SECRET WARS.** The drawings are excellent, the colors are vivid. I like that in a comic book. Keep up the good work!

Frank Layton IV
Route S, Box 134
Athens, AL 35611

If I were Wolvie, I *would* have carved ***Torch*** into briquettes!

Chip "Elf" Calvert
921 N. Lindsay Pl.
Alexandria, VA 22304

Sensational! "Tempest Without, Crisis Within" showed **Maggy** and **the Wasp** actually coming on to each other! Truly astounding! If that wasn't enough, then **Spidey** actually fights **the X-Men** to a standstill. To top that, we get two new super heroines — **Volcana** and **Titania.** Not wanting us fans to catch our breath, you now show **Enchantress** and **Thor** take off together. I hope **Sif** doesn't find out about their little rendezvous . . . ! For a finale, nothing less than **Doom** and friends attack our heroes in broad daylight! Boy, that **Doom** sure has the nerve!

After all this, who can patiently wait for the next issue? Hurry up!

Donavon R. Ice, Jr.
R.D. 4 Cedar Manor
Elisabethtown, PA 17022

"The War Begins" was great. It was too much seeing how **Ultron** was such a small fry compared to **Galactus! Captain America** was the right choice for leader. "Tempest Without, Crisis Within," was also terrific. It was wild to see all the games people were playing. I couldn't wait to learn how **Titania** and **Volcana** got on the planet. **Molecule Man** and **Volcana** were a perfect counterbalance to each other.

"Situation: Hopeless" was right on. Guest artist **Bob Layton** worked beautifully with inker **John Beatty.** The subplots kept getting stronger and stronger. It's about time somebody remembered that **Molecule Man's** power makes him a threat! **The Enchantress** showed that there is more to her than meets the eye. It'll be interesting to learn who is more dangerous, **Dr. Doom** or **Magneto.** The subplots and action mixed well together in "The Battle of Four Armies." The cover on that issue was a real eye-opener! Page four of that story got to the heart of the matter. It does us well to see that even our heroes aren't above human emotion.

You really know how to make each battle believable. I can't wait to read the next twist in this incredible saga!

Charles David Haskell
15 West 139 St. Apt. 4R
New York, NY 10037

Do you realize that all the mysterious unexplained parts of the "regular" comics that occur in **SECRET WARS** will not be explained until December of 1984? AAArrrrrrgghghg! I can't wait that long! Please spare me!

Patrick Magee
500 S. Loder Ave.
Endicott, Ny 13760

I just finished reading the latest **SECRET WARS** about ten minutes ago, and I felt compelled to write. This looks like it could be an interesting trip . . . The book looks very nice, overall. **Dr. Doom** was handled perfectly. **Galactus** was handled equally well — but why is he with the bad guys? Isn't he "above good and evil?" Is he really expected to fight against **Reed Richards,** his only friend (except **Nova**) in the entire universe, and the only thinking creature who does not fear him? I suppose that this will be a part of the story as it develops.

The Avengers were done very well, and no one else went shortchanged. If the next issues keep up, you'll be looking at an undeniable winner.

Paul Montgomery Crabaugh
2830 Sepulveda #20
Los Angeles, CA 90064

I just finished reading the first issue of **SECRET WARS** and I've come up with an idea for another story, featuring two of the participants, **Rogue** and **Absorbing Man!** To the best of my knowledge, they've never fought before, and I think an "absorb-off" would make for one heck of a story! Each of them would be trying to do the other in, **Rogue** trying to absorb **Absorbie's** power, while he tried to absorb her power to absorb his power . . . quite an idea, eh? If you can figure out an ending for that face-off, then *you* deserve a no-prize!

Paul A. Allen
6904 Manatee Ave. W. #24C
Brandenton, FL 33529

Of all the comics out today, I consider **SECRET WARS** the most exciting. This *is* the quintessential Marvel magazine, a crowning culmination of all the care and labor and love dedicated by two decades of the best imagineers to characters who have reached mythological status. The incredible interaction of such powerful beings on such a high level is not an easy illusion to create, much less sustain. Each issue has been more subtle, complex, thought provoking, and overpowering than the last.

You have even left room for human drama, Marvel's trademark. The **Torch-Zsaji-Colossus** triangle could bring an entirely new dimension to this fantastic story. The actions and responses of the characters will make that determination. **Johnny,** for one, has been through all this enough times to be philosophical.

Thanks.

Allen Usherwood
1615 #2 Ontario Dr.
Sunnyvale, CA 94087

Re: **SECRET WARS #3**

It's good from time to time to see **Spidey** in action against numerous other heroes. Somehow, this particular battle brought out how fast, strong, and agile **Spidey** really is. I'm starting to feel as good about **Spidey** as I did after seeing his battle with **the F.F.** in **MARVEL TEAM-UP #100!**

Rick S. Jones
11292 W. 17B
Argos, IN 46501

I haven't written in a while, but **SECRET WARS** really calls for it. I think this may be the ultimate expression of your term as editor-in-chief — at least, until the next

great idea comes along. It seems so natural and inevitable, really. First the Marvel line has been worked into a continuity and consistency that actually surpasses **Stan Lee's** mid-1960's fun-fests, and now we get to see the ultimate team-up people have been dying for ever since **Stan** and **Jack** did **F.F. ANNUAL #3** all those years ago. Wow.

So *this* is what **Mike Zeck** and **John Beatty** have been up to since leaving **CAPTAIN AMERICA**! Their dynamic, powerful,. yet clean and beautiful art is perfectly suited to depicting the biggest characters of the Marvel Universe all at once.

The bits I really liked: **Reed** "explaining" how they got there and **the Hulk** saying "That's obvious!", the almost universal acceptance of **Captain America** as a leader from the **Hulk's** suggestion to **Thor's** moving statements, **Galactus** knocked unconscious and **Doom** just walking away, and the first appearance of **Kang** since soooo long ago! I don't think people realize what a historic occasion this all is!

Henry R. Kujawa
1202 Everett Street
Camden, NJ 08104

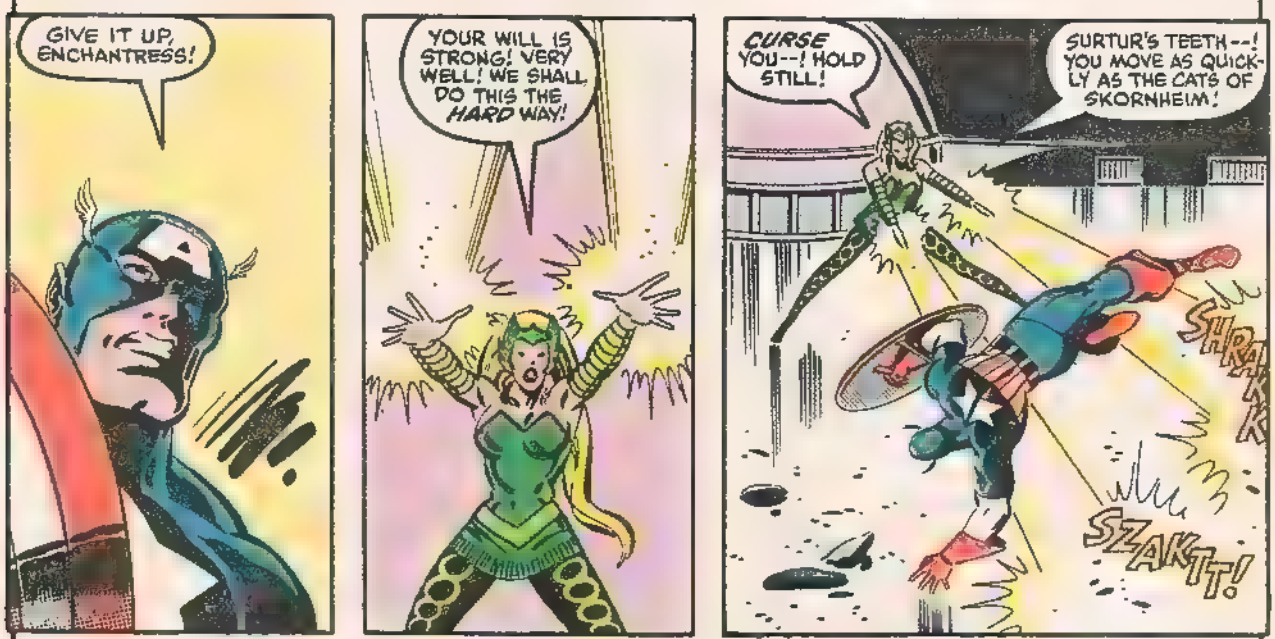
Well, that did it! After reading the first three issues of **MARVEL SUPER HEROES SECRET WARS**, I thought, "Should I write them and tell them how much I like it?" Well, each time I thought I should wait until the twelfth issue, but after reading #4, I thought, "The heck with it." To set the tone for why I liked it so much, I'll let you know that I'd been wondering "Why aren't there any real Marvel epics anymore?" Yes, I know, there have been smaller scale ones recently, but I mean truly cosmic stories along the lines of **Jim Starlin's Thanos** stories. **SECRET WARS** is the first interstellar Marvel happening of this scope in a long time! And as a reader of your comics of fifteen years, I think I know the highlights of Marvel history. This series, gentlemen, is destined to take a rightful place among them.

Let's face it. Babyface **Bob Layton** is one of Marvel's best artists, period. I was blown away by the cover of issue #4. The plot twists inside were absolutely unbelievable! Last issue, I thought, "**Magneto** and **the Wasp**? No way!" Since the characters are so real to us I feel like I know her. I just *knew* she was stringing **Magneto** along. Thanks for proving me right! Once again may I say if the great **Mike Zeck** has deadline problems again, call on **Bob**!

I love the way both of the super hero and super villain groups split into smaller factions. How were the villains abducted to **the Beyonder's** world? Anyhow, all the traditional Marvel emotional warfare between heroes *and* villains is there in full force.

This is a good time for me to say something to **Jim Shooter**. **Jim**, although you are an extraordinary editor (which is obvious — why else would you be editor in chief?) and you run Marvel well, and you're good at all those other things that you do . . . I think you're still best as a writer. Your **AVENGERS** stories still rank among my all-time favorites, and I wish you had the time to write another super hero series this year. At least we've got you doing **SECRET WARS** for '84. I'll write again after the whole shebang is over. To close, I'll ask the simple question, "How does it feel to be part of Marvel history?" Nuff said!

Evan M. Lanctot
45 Powers Ave.
San Francisco, CA 94110


GIVE IT UP, ENCHANTRESS!
YOUR WILL IS STRONG! VERY WELL! WE SHALL DO THIS THE HARD WAY!
CURSE YOU--! HOLD STILL!
SURTUR'S TEETH--! YOU MOVE AS QUICKLY AS THE CATS OF SKORNHEIM!
SHRAKK
SZAKT!

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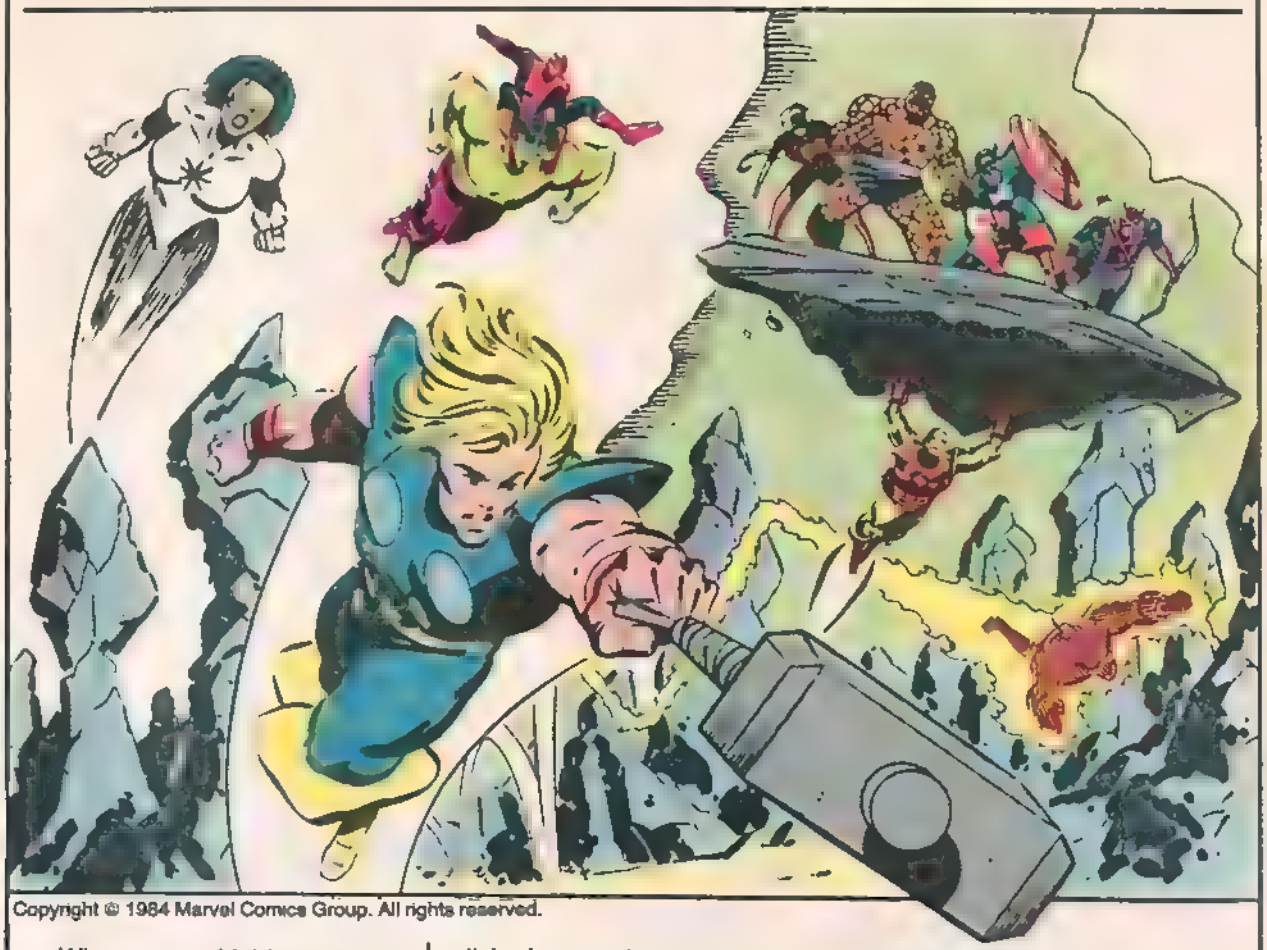
Cap vs. the **Enchantress** — a great battle awaits in every issue of **SECRET WARS**!

POSTSCRIPT: A VISIT WITH JIM SHOOTER



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When some highly advanced future society builds the Museum of Comics History, one of the exhibits will probably be a reconstruction of **Jim Shooter's** office at 387 Park Avenue South. Over the Editor in Chief's desk hangs a portrait painted by **Bill Sienkiewicz** — a remarkable likeness of exceptionally-tall **Jim** as seen from a normal, human point of view. It's . . . odd, but striking. Surrounding the desk are memorabilia, pieces of artwork, some bookshelves, and a well-worn couch. On top of the desk sit the most urgent and fascinating pieces of Marvel business — project proposals, comics of every description in various stages of completion, and stacks of writing tablets filled with notes for **Jim's** magnum opus, **MARVEL SUPER HEROES SECRET WARS**.

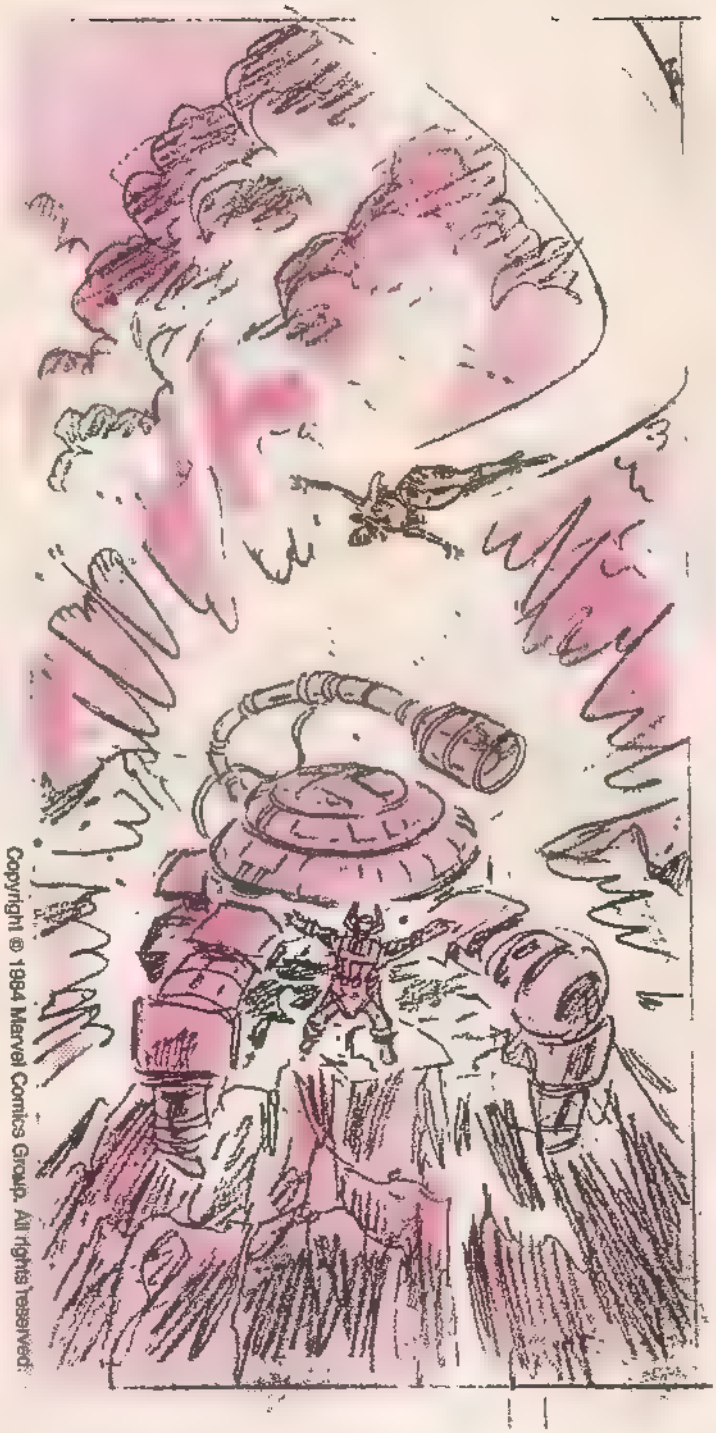
Behind the desk sits the man himself, **James Charles Shooter**. This is *his* year. Already accomplished as a writer, editor, and architect of the Marvel renaissance, **Jim** decided to go out on a limb in 1984 — to take the great creative gamble on a comics epic more provocative and consequential than had ever been attempted.

The gamble paid off. With half the series left to go, **SECRET WARS** has already been established as one of the greatest comics sagas of all time. Sales have topped all other comic books this decade. As you read in our previous article, readers worldwide hail its author as a fantasy spinner of courage and genius.

When we visited **Jim** in his office, though, we didn't find a man boastful of his accomplishment. Rather, he seemed a little harried, like a creator who is less than satisfied with his own work. He had the look of a man who'd been up most of the night sweating the details on the *next* issues, to make the climax and denoument even better than the introduction to the series.

"Congratulations," we began. "The mail on **SECRET WARS** is overwhelmingly positive. How does it feel?"

"Great." **Jim** sat back. "I can't tell you how much work I've put into this project. It's gratifying to know I'm succeeding. I've taken great pains to coordinate closely with the editors and writers of all the characters involved. Of course, I'm the ultimate authority on all of Marvel's characters — the guy who instructs all the writers and editors here how each character thinks, feels and behaves, and rules upon just what any character would do or say in any given circumstance — so I *could* have pulled rank and just issued orders to everyone regarding the development of all the Marvel stars in **SECRET WARS**. But I think it's better to work *with* the creative people on the firing lines — involve them in every decision — and really get some creative



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synergy going. That approach works better. Sometimes I've thought to myself that writing **SECRET WARS** would be easier if I didn't take the care that I do. But I love these characters, and **SECRET WARS** had to be the kind of comic I want to read. It sure feels wonderful to hear that other people feel the way I do. I guess I knew all along that if I didn't let the readers down, then they wouldn't let me down.

"*All* of us on **SECRET WARS** were determined from the first to do it right." As **Jim** pushed his chair back from his desk and started to relax, we could see much of the worry and stress that comes with his job disappear from his six-foot-seven-inch frame. "That's right. *All* of us. When you write this article, please don't fail to give proper credit to **Mike Zeck** — the guy who drew the pictures! His dramatic interpretations are so consistent and beautiful that he should be nominated for artist of the year. **John Beatty** is going to be a household name, too. I feel honored to have this craftsman ink my story. **Mike** and **John** were so patient with me, and with all the changes, corrections, and fussy details that **SECRET WARS** requires, that they proved themselves true professionals, and possibly candidates for saint-hood. They deserve every ounce of fan recognition they get.

"The same goes for **Bob Layton** on the guest-pencils. Talk about tasks handled with quiet grace and power. **Christie Scheele** has earned a place up there with **Glynis** and **Marie**. Her colors brings **SECRET WARS** to life, and no one's palette could have been more breathtaking. Letterer **Joe Rosen** and all the production people who put the book together have all been giving their best. I am privileged to be working with some of the finest professionals in the comics business.

"**Tom DeFalco**, who edits the book, hates the limelight. He doesn't like having a big fuss made about him. **Tom** prefers to stay behind the scenes, letting the work speak for itself. I have to say, though, that this guy does a phenomenal job day in and day out!"

Although he loves to share the credit for success with the people around him, the unprecedented storm of enthusiasm that's been rocking comics fandom has focused on **Jim Shooter** himself. Some fans have likened his work to the classic work of **Stan Lee** and **Jack Kirby**. Like all historical events, though, **SECRET WARS** is controversial. This is nothing new to **Jim**, whose insistence on quality occasionally garners him criticism in addition to his large following. No wonder — like all creators of strong vision, **Jim** takes risks.

"The characters in **SECRET WARS** are in, let's face it, the ulti-

mate stress situation. They've seen a *galaxy* destroyed before their eyes — think about that. They're thrust into a combat, the outcome of which may alter the fate of the universe. Think about *that*. For once, that's *not* just cliché hype. It's really all on the line here. This is not a day at the beach for these guys. We've never seen them in a situation like this before. Never! And therefore, we'll see things emerging in them — fears, hopes, feelings, doubts — that usually remain hidden. And they'll all be changed by this experience — for all time. How could they not be?"

Certainly the drama of these human interactions described by an astute and sensitive writer compels our interest. But we wouldn't leave **Shooter's** office without some hints about the *plot*, either! How was this fantastic battle-fest going to turn out? We ached to know.

Jim was characteristically tight-lipped — but he *did* consent to reveal a few nuggets of information!

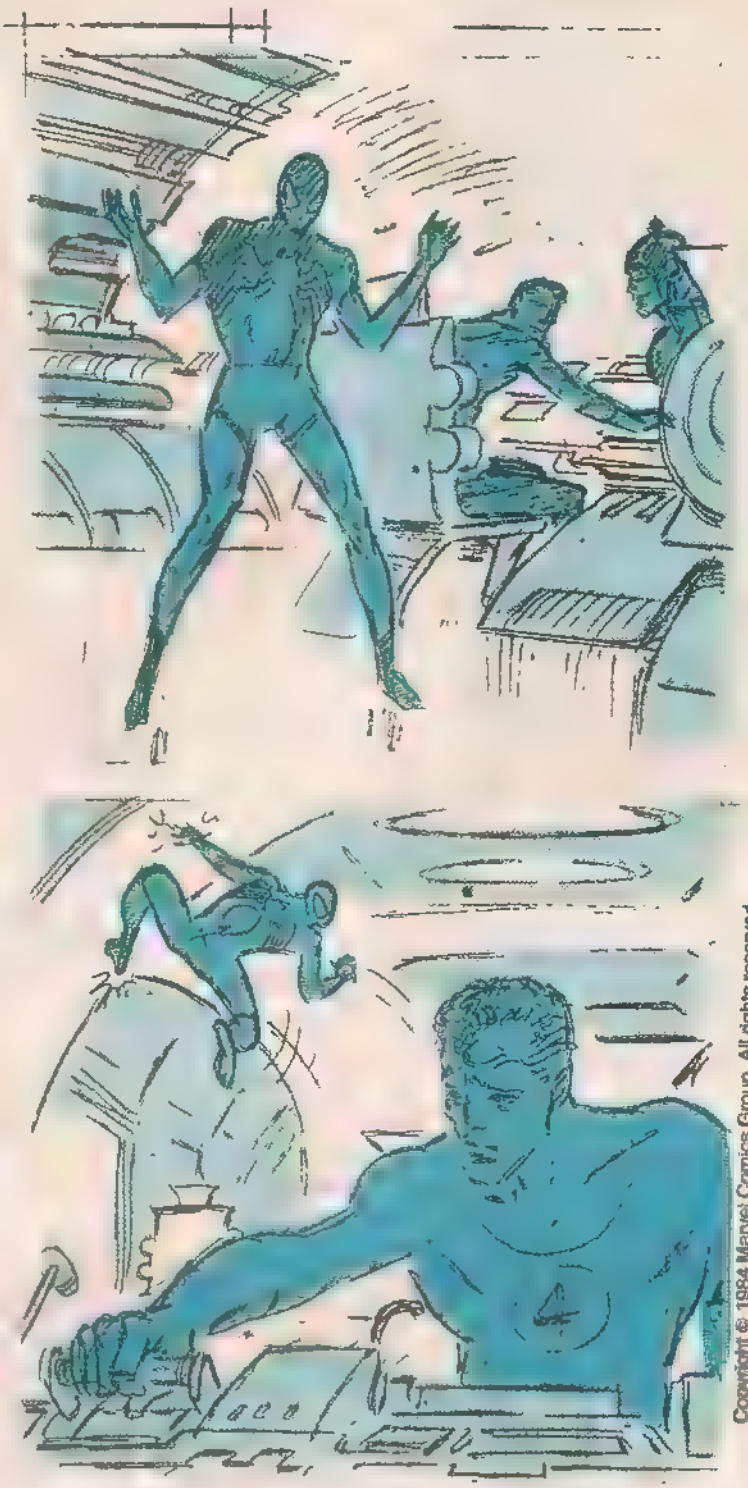
SECRET WARS #8 brings the final defeat for one side of the epic battle! But can this mean that there's a winner — and that the battle is over?

Issue #9 continues the suspense as some vital undercurrents come to the surface. All-important to the war's final outcome is **Galactus!** The battle-weary participants in the **Secret Wars** find themselves caught between two unthinkable fates! Must they fight to save the universe — or to save themselves? Wait'll you witness the turning point — when **Galactus** identifies which of our cast is actually a *Universal Force*, just as he is. Who can it be? And what could the all-powerful **Galactus** need from a mere Earthling?

Where unfathomable power sits lurks an insidious **Doctor Doom.** You *know* that **Doom** will try his best to win a conflict above mere victory or loss — but **Doom** himself doesn't realize the key to his own future! Our hint — **Doom's** path to destiny lies in what he previously thought to be a disappointment!

A prophesy **Doom** made back in issue #1 (page thirteen, to be exact!) returns as a central theme in Issue #10. The true side of an even more mysterious character comes out! Then — one of the combatants reverses his aims! Does altruism and personal sacrifice give way to selfish desire? Let the chips fall where they may!

And you thought all the excitement was just over a couple of new costumes!



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We left **Jim Shooter's** office impressed. For all of us who dwell in the realm of heroic fantasy and thrilling cosmic adventure, this will be a year long remembered. Fortunate we are to have **Jim Shooter**, a man of dedication, talent, and vision, heading the team which chronicles the greatest epic conflict of them all. ●

HEMBECK'S PAGE
..huh?..
WHAZZAT?
WHO TURNED ON THE LIGHT?..
BROTHER VOODOO?!? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
YOU WORK FOR MARVEL AGE, DO YOU NOT? WELL, I AM HERE TO GIVE YOU A "SCOOP".
AT 4:12 IN THE MORNING??
AH, BUT IT WILL BE WORTH IT.
AND WHAT ART! AN ISSUE APIECE FROM JOHN BYRNE, BILL SIENKIEWICZ, JIM STARLIN, AND WALT SIMONSON--ALL TO BE INKED BY TERRY AUSTIN, OF COURSE.
OF COURSE...
THERE HE IS MEN--GET THE RESTRAINTS ON HIM!
uh oh--
DOC SAMSON?!?
HE'S HARMLESS NOW. TAKE HIM AWAY.
HEY! JUST WHAT THE HECK IS GOING ON AROUND HERE?!?
...AN INTRODUCTION BY STEPHEN KING...
THAT POOR MAN IS A PATIENT OF MINE IN LIMBO, WHERE WE SELDOM SEEN CHARACTERS SPEND MOST OF OUR TIME. SOMETIMES THE PLACIDITY PUSHES ONE OF THESE NEGLECTED SOULS AROUND THE BEND AND THEY BREAK OUT, CONVINCED OF THEIR OWN SELF-IMPORTANCE.

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IT HAD BETTER BE! OKAY, SPIT IT OUT.
I AM HERE TO MAKE THE FIRST OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE FOUR ISSUE BROTHER VOODOO LIMITED SERIES MARVEL WILL SOON BE PUBLISHING.
OH YEAH? TELL ME MORE.
AS YOU CAN WELL IMAGINE, THERE WAS A GREAT DEAL OF COMPETITION AMONG THE CREATIVE PERSONNEL FOR SUCH A PRESTIGIOUS ASSIGNMENT. CHRIS CLAREMONT, JIM SHOOTER AND STAN LEE ALL WANTED TO AUTHOR MY EXPLOITS.
WHAT HAPPENED?
WE REACHED A COMPROMISE BETWEEN THE THREE. SHOOTER WILL PLOT, CLAREMONT WILL DIALOG...
...AND STAN?
HE'LL ADD THE EXCLAMATION POINTS...
THEN YOU MEAN HIS STORY ABOUT A LIMITED SERIES?..
ALL IN HIS MISGUIDED MIND, I'M AFRAID.
WELL, THANKS FOR SETTING ME STRAIGHT, DOC...
JUST DOING MY JOB.
..AND I GUESS I'LL BE SEEING YOU IN THE PAGES OF THE INCREDIBLE HULK.
THEN YOU HAVEN'T HEARD?
HEARD WHAT?
I'M STARRING IN MY OWN MARVEL GRAPHIC NOVEL! YUP, IT'S TRUE! MIKE GOLDEN IS DOING THE ARTWORK. IN FACT, EVERY SINGLE PANEL IS GOING TO BE AN OIL PAINTING! AND THAT'S THE LEAST OF IT! HOW DOES A HARDCOVER, LAMINATED EDITION SOUND? NOT BAD, eh? AND THAT'S NOT ALL...
DOC, HEAL THYSELF...

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A Special Hero — BLACK PANTHER

by **Peter B. Gillis**

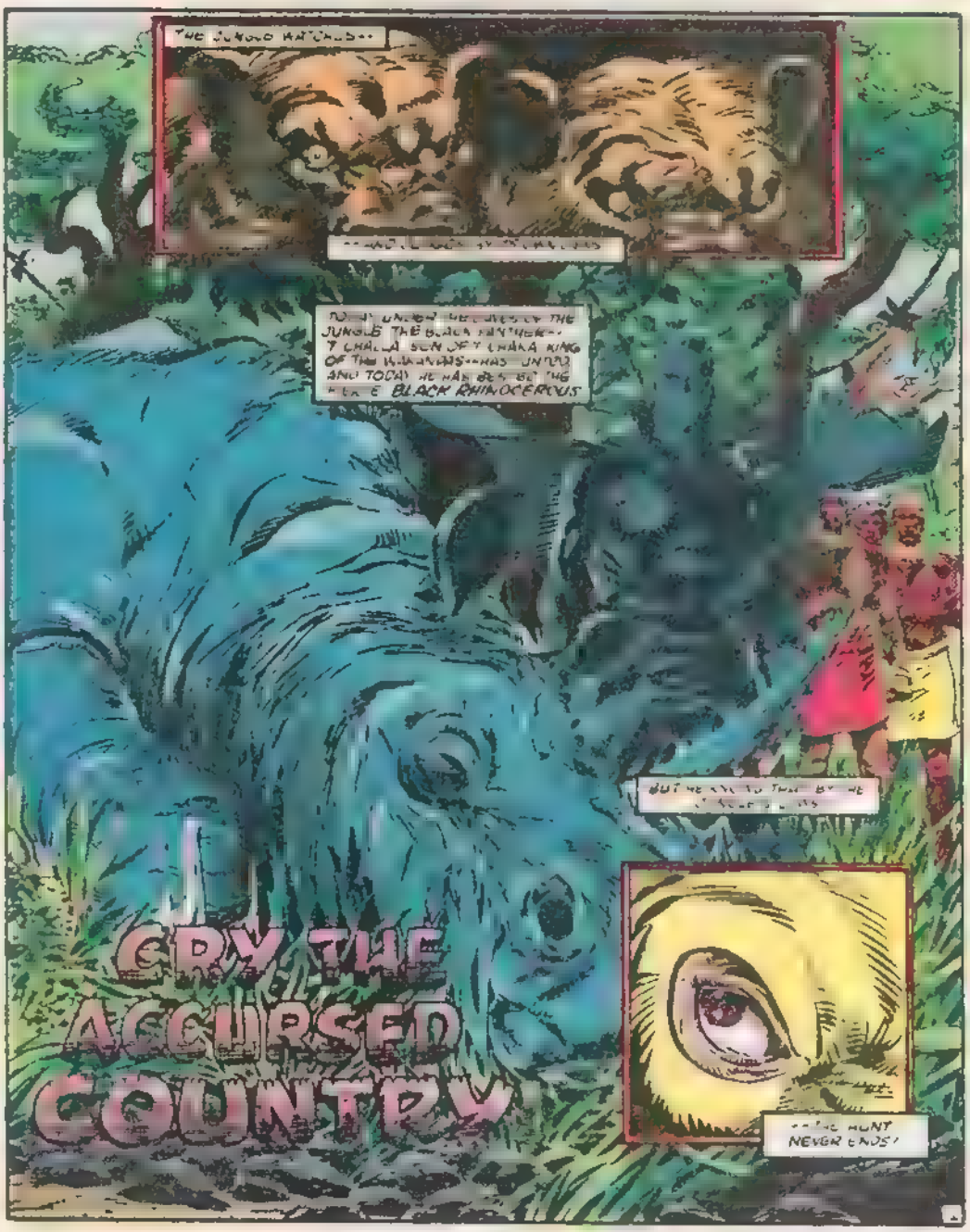
When I was offered the opportunity to write a Limited Series starring **the Black Panther** with penciller **Denys Cowan**, I jumped at the chance! Why? Because **the Black Panther** always has been special to the Marvel Universe, with a distinguished history and mystique all his own. Too long, I felt, had **the Panther** been relegated to a supporting role, and to present him center-stage was my chance to add a chapter to a unique and glorious legend.

The Black Panther was the first black super hero. Created by **Stan Lee** and **Jack Kirby**, **T'Challah** of the nation of Wakanda was more than a gimmick. He could battle **the Fantastic Four** to a standstill on their own terms. He came from a mythic background as wondrous as that of **Dr. Strange** or **Thor**. This African king inhabited both worlds of contemporary reality and exotic fantasy. When I slapped down my money for **FANTASTIC FOUR** #52, in which **the Panther** first appeared, a long enchantment began that has never lifted.

The Panther always represented a special blend of high fantasy with realism. In **the Panther's** previous series in **JUNGLE ACTION**, written by **Don McGregor**, **the Panther** both fought weird and dangerous villains like **Eric Killmonger** and **Lord Karnaj**, and confronted the real-life menace of the Ku Klux Klan. Those were some of the best comics adventures I've read. **The Black Panther** was all that a comics hero should be: exciting, rousing, mysterious. More than simple escapism, his were the kind of stories that stick with you.

When **Bob Budiansky** asked me to write this all-new Limited Series, I don't think he knew what he was getting into! To be sure, I wrote an **IRON MAN ANNUAL** guest-starring **the Panther** — so I guess the fact that I liked the character showed. But I *don't* think **Bob** was prepared for the hyper-enthusiastic torrent of ideas that poured from me! But, then again, an editor as experienced as **Bob** should be used to dealing with creative and eccentric freelancers by now! **Bob** patiently sorted through all my ideas. Then came penciller **Denys Cowan** — when **Denys** shared *his* ideas about **the Panther** with **Bob** and me, the excitement accelerated! We developed a story that we hope will be true to the special **Panther** tradition — and that mixture of thrilling adventure with deep concern for the issues that involve our society.

Naturally, **Denys**, **Bob**, and I decided to focus the Limited Series on Africa, **the Black Panther's** home. The Kingdom of Wakanda is part of the African community of nations, a community torn by deep divisions. The


THE JUNGLE NATIONS--
--AND IT HAS BEEN SO FOR CENTURIES
TODAY UNDER THE QUEEN OF THE JUNGLE THE BLACK PANTHER--T'CHALLA SON OF T'CHAKA KING OF THE WAKANDANS--HAS UNITED AND TODAY HE HAS SLAIN THE FIERCE BLACK RHINOCEROUS
BUT HE KILLED TWO BY HE
CRY THE ACCURSED COUNTRY
--THE HUNT NEVER ENDS!

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injustices of raciam still plague Africa. Portions of the continent are still ruled by men who do not allow blacks to vote, own property, sit in the same movie theaters as whites, or even live with their own familes. Now, most people know that conditions like this existed around the turn of the century; many do not realize that they remain today. **The Black Panther** knows.

The **BLACK PANTHER** Limited Series doesn't stop there. You'll witness the fury of a renegade god. You'll grimace at the most disturbing group of super heroes ever to tread the earth. Add to this palace intrigues, international espionage, the most beautiful woman ever to grace the pages of a comics series — and a fight against a foe which every instinct tells **the Panther** he should not oppose! Small wonder that **Denys** and I left the plot conference so fired up that **Bob** probably wondered what we had for breakfast that morning!

To tell you more would be to spoil some surprises. Suffice it to say that when you plunk down your 75¢ for **BLACK PANTHER** #1, you'll become a party to that special enchantment along with me. It's a feeling you won't soon forget. ●

G.I. JOE UPDATE

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by **Dwight Jon Zimmerman**

In a little over two years, **G.I. JOE** has proved one of Marvel's most consistently exciting group comics. One of the key facets of the interest in the adventures of **Hawk, Duke, Scarlett, Snake-Eyes** and the others is the knowledge that at any moment new members or enemies will not only debut, but stay on as active characters in the series. The commanding presence of many new characters takes the series on new roads of adventure that were not even dreamt of when **G.I. JOE** was created!

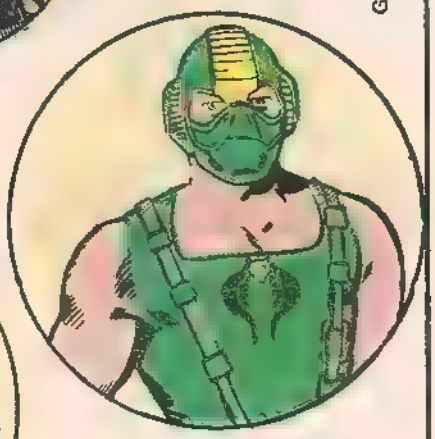
There are now over twenty-five active **Joes** on the team, not counting the roster of **Cobra**. With the expanded roll call, the missions of **the Joes** have become extremely diverse in location and subject matter. **The Joes**, both in teams and on individual missions, have fought **Cobra** terrorists everywhere from remote islands to forbidding mountain-top castles and from the steps of the Capitol building in Washington, D.C. to a sinister shack in the Florida Everglades.

Throughout it all, writer **Larry Hama** becomes more enthusiastic for these characters with every issue. He believes he has only begun to scratch the surface of what can happen with the series.

This inclusion of new characters is not arbitrary. **Larry** and the creative people at Hasbro, the makers of **G.I. Joe** action figures, work closely together to develop new additions to the **G.I. Joe** and **Cobra** teams.

"The people at Hasbro will often come up with the look — a character sketch of what they want to produce, a style," said **Larry**. "Usually they'll give the character a working title like 'infantry man' or 'anti-tank specialist'. Then I create the name, background, training history, personality — all the stuff that makes him 'real'."

DUKE



COPPERHEAD

STORM SHADOW

Ten new characters are scheduled to appear in the next few months. "It is difficult to talk about them," says **Larry**. "I have not finished writing the dossier's yet. After I'm done, Hasbro's legal department reviews the characters, to make sure, for instance, that we can even use the name I give the character. I have to list a half-dozen names for each one, because occasionally the first choice in names won't be approved."

One of the recent additions to the team, who is already gaining his own following, is the fighter pilot, **Ace**. "I'm working on a story

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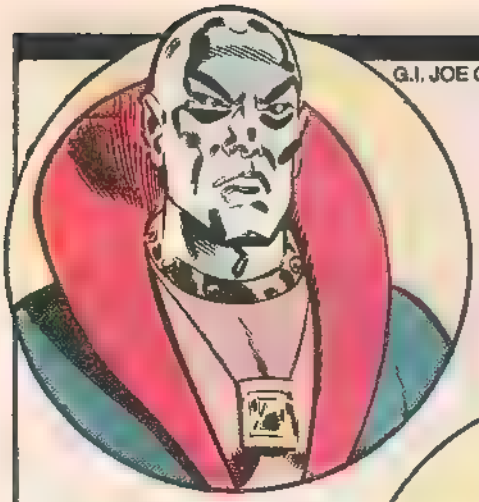
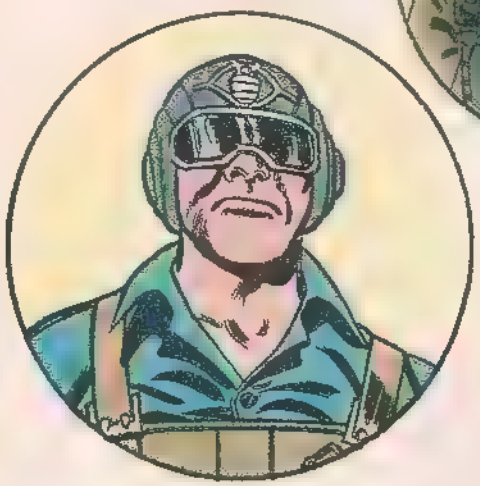


DESTRO

IRON KNIFE

WILD WEASEL

RIP CORD



SCRAP IRON

that involves **Ace** and **Cover Girl** in an aerial dog fight against **Destro** and **the Baroness** that will be drawn by **Michael Golden**," said **Larry**. "We're putting in all the things that **Mike** likes to draw!"

The mention of **Cover Girl** brought up a question, **Cover Girl** literally burst onto the scene in **G.I. JOE #16** driving a huge Wolverine tank. How could a woman be comfortable operating such a large, bulky piece of weaponry? Replied **Larry**, "The way modern armor is designed and constructed, it is easier for a smaller sized person to operate than a tall husky one."

Larry follows very closely the development of real weapons and military equipment and attempts to incorporate them into the continuity of **G.I. JOE**. A detail about armor that might have escaped someone else became a unique way of introducing a new member.

Duke, who appeared with the heavy machine-gunner **Roadblock** in **G.I. JOE** #22, fills a vaccum that existed in the strike force. "One early problem with this military team that we saw was the fact that it did not have a 'top kick,' or top sergeant. In the organization of any military unit, this is the man who basically runs the entire operation. In the normal scheme of things, at the top you have the Commanding officer; for the **Joes**, this is **Hawk**. Below him is an executive officer and finally the top sergeant. The top kick is very crucial to the unit, because he is the career man who effectively runs the outfit." Already the benefits of **Duke's** presence have been noted. **Hawk** is now free to devote more time to strategy and coordinating the overall efforts of **the G.I. Joe** strike force, which include assigning missions, monitoring progress on the reconstructions of the Pit, the **G.I. Joe** secret base, and dealing with superiors.

One of the newer additions that **Larry** is especially fond of is **Mutt** and his dog, **Junkyard**. "When I knew I had to do a character with a dog," stated **Larry**, "I thought about what I could do to make the pair different. And I liked the twist

of having the master being really vicious and the dangerous attack dog being the one who *loves* you to death. **Junkyard** is clever, though, very clever, and I'm having fun developing the love / hate relationship the two have with each other."

Character development is very important, obviously, but how long does **Larry** feel it takes before he feels a character has achieved a full personality? "Some of them appeared almost full blown," replied **Larry**. "Others just take a while to develop. **The Baroness**, for instance, who is one of the most popular characters, took about a year and a half before I felt she was all together. The ones who are really documented are **Snake Eyes**, **Scarlett** and **Storm Shadow**."

With all the different characters in **G.I. JOE**, it is a wonder that **Larry** can keep them all straight. "I am amazed myself," said **Larry**. "But it really helps to do the old **Chester Gould** trick of keeping the names as close to describing the character as possible."

A good example of such a method is a new **Joe** scheduled, a flame thrower operator called **Blow Torch**. Another new member, whose name is still undecided, is a native American who will have weird spiritual powers and is, in fact, a shaman in his tribe.

On the **Cobra** side, **Larry** stated that some of the new characters, whose roles will remain secret for now, would be called **Buzzer**, **Ripper** and **Torch**. And there will be a special team making its debut soon that is promised to give **the Joes** an awful lot of trouble.

Zartan, the latest in **Cobra Commander's** staple of nefarious allies, is already becoming a villain the readers love to hate. Based in a super-sophisticated complex disguised as a dilapidated shack in the Florida Everglades, **Zartan** has not only earned the respect and enmity of **the Joes**, but also of **Destro**, **the Baroness** and **Major Bludd**, who view him as a deadly rival in their power struggle to gain control of **Cobra**. **Zartan's** minions, **the**

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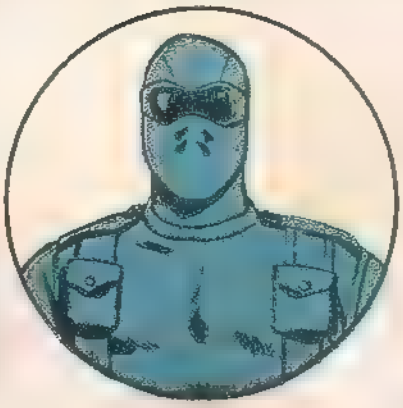
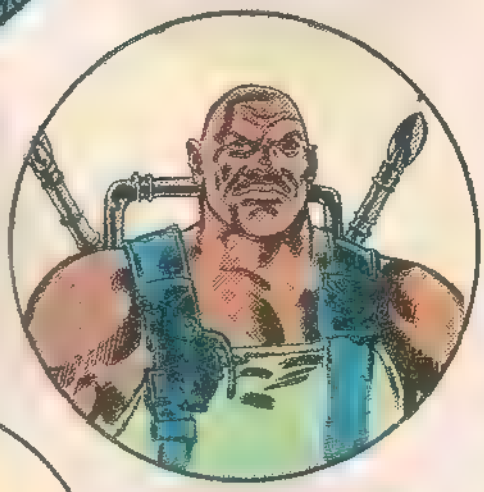
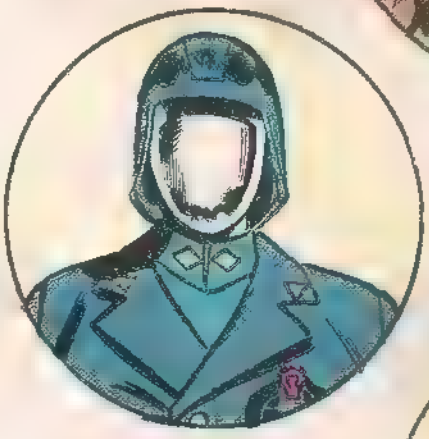


SNAKE EYES



ROADBLOCK



COBRA COMMANDER

MUTT

DEEP SIX

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RECONDO

THE BARONESS

ZARTAN

FIREFLY

MAJOR BLUDD

Dreadnoks, will be playing an important role in future adventures. **Larry** added, with a grin, that their civilian names were finally determined: **Tom Winkin**, **Dick Blinkin** and **Harry Nod**.

But the addition of new **Joes** is not the only change scheduled. **Snake Eyes**, who has been with the team since the first issue, will be receiving a new outfit and a new partner: a wolf. **Larry** wouldn't reveal when this would happen, but promised that the debut would mark a pivotal point in **Snake-Eyes's** life.

Perhaps the only thing that **Larry** regrets in the series is that he hasn't had much chance to pay attention to many of the characters on an individual basis. The issues featuring **Snake Eyes** and **Clutch** in primarily solo adventures were especially satisfying for him as they allowed **Larry** the opportunity to really show everyone what the character was like outside and before involvement with the **G.I. Joe** strike force.

But, even when he cannot devote a lot of space to an individual character, **Larry** makes sure that each character's speech pattern is distinctive. "All the characters can speak standard, straight English," said **Larry**. But when **Larry** writes a character with a strong ethnic background, like **Roadblock** or **Gung Ho**, he finds the most effective way of firmly establishing the character is to have him use a colloquilism at a key moment. Not only does it add the necessary verbal stress of importance but it also clearly states the character's unique identity.

Larry stressed that there were many new types of adventures that he and the artists were doing that will show that everything the readers have read in the past is only a hint at the possibilities for the future. ●

MARVEL AGE — 1966 (PART III)

by **Warren Reece**

So far, in our time-tour of 1966, we've payed close attention to **Spider-Man**. Well, fasten your seat belts, friends. It's time to go cosmic! Let's see what else stretched the dimensions of imagination in 1966. We'll begin with **Thor, Hercules,** and *The Netherworld Trilogy*. Let's lead up to it the right way; set the stage, so to speak.

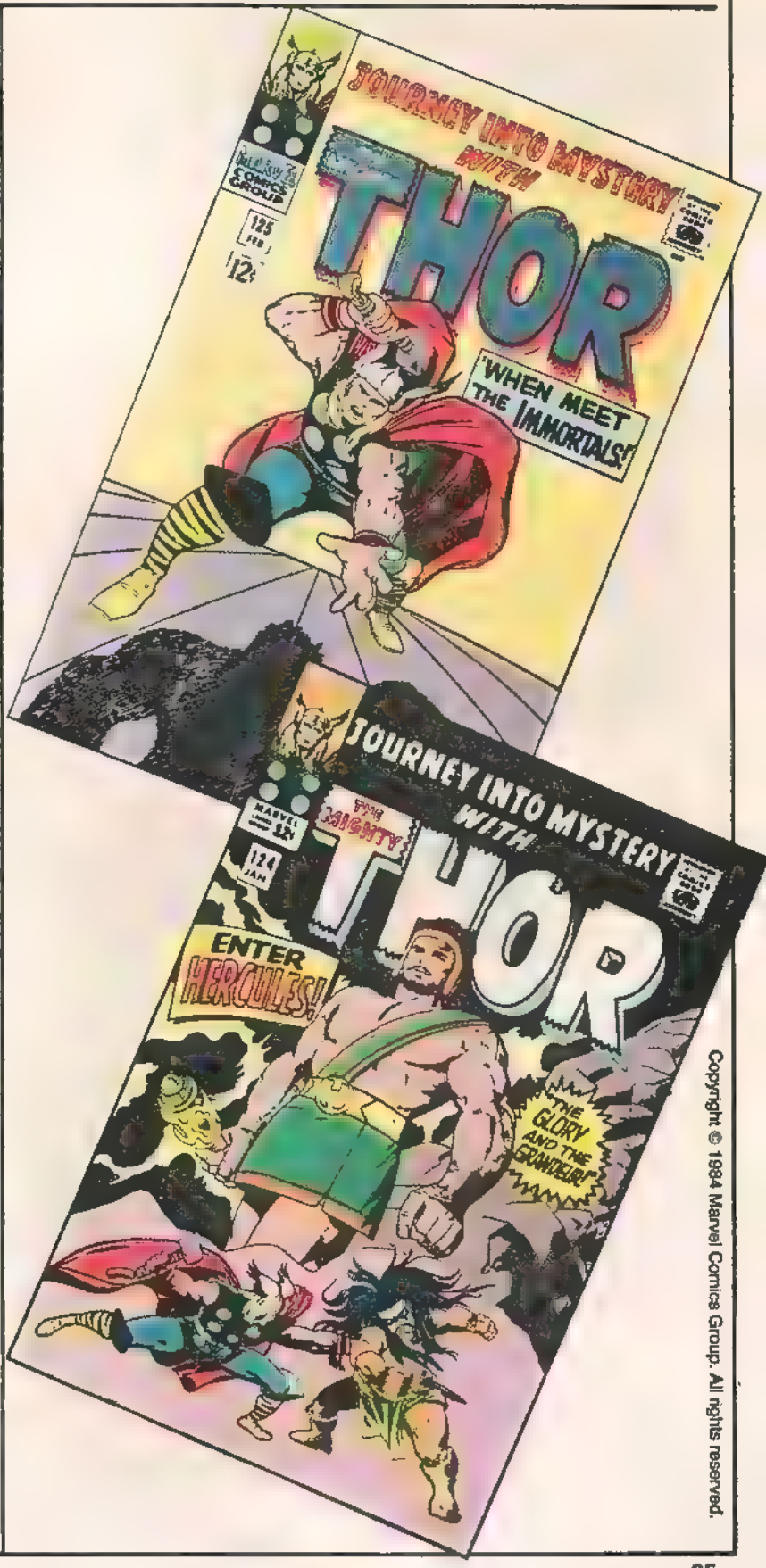
In **JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY** #124, folks saw **Thor** comfort a little girl whose father had been wounded in Viet Nam. Alluding to his own recent experience, he told her of all the courageous, patriotic fathers in far-off places, fighting for liberty, as he knelt and embraced her with the same arms that could crush boulders. This touching scene clearly portrayed the military trauma of the nation's youth.

Then, the Big Deals started happening. The forbidden romance between Thor's mortal identity **Don Blake** and **Jane Foster** took a sharp turn. **Don,** in an effort to ease the hysteria of the emotionally ill **Jane,** revealed his secret identity!

Well, in issue #125, **Odin** got mad as hell, because he had ordered his son to stop seeing the mortal girl. The All-Father forced his disobedient son to undergo the Ritual of Steel; a trial by combat against a horde of Asgardian warriors. Defeat would've meant confinement to Asgard and separation from **Jane.**

Thor answered this challenge valiantly. **Stan Lee** and **Jack Kirby** produced a chain of action-packed cosmic events. **Thor** cataclysmically cobatted an array of his costumed friends, and crashed out of Asgard.

Arriving on Earth, he discovered that **Jane,** upset and angry over **Thor's** leaving her without explanation, was consorting with **Hercules**. The Prince of Power had come down to Earth on a sort of vacation, and had met the charming **Jane,** by a stroke of fate. **Thor**



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was upset and angry, and he wasn't going to back down!

In #126, **Thor** battled **Hercules** in New York City. Heightening the cosmic drama was the fact that **Odin** was secretly punishing **Thor** by draining him of half of his fighting power! Consequently, **Thor** was defeated, disgraced before **Hercules**, the spectators, and . . . **Jane**! However, in an emotion-fraught turnabout, **Odin** telepathically explained to **Jane** the reason for what had befallen his' son. Well, things might've seemed on the mend, but there was BIG TROUBLE ahead.

You see, **Odin**, lacking the heart to punish **Thor** *directly*, had given his Odin power to the crafty and covetous **Seidring**. This guy did, indeed, reduce **Thor's** power to half strength. However, when the whole affar was over, **Seidring the Merciless** attacked **Odin** and the **Asgardians**.

Thus, in #127, charged with the invincible **Odin power**, **Seidring** subdued **Odin** and the **Asgardians** with a spectacular assault of elemental energies, determined to be master of the golden realm. From the depths of defeat, **Thor** came to the middle of this single-handed revolt against **Odin** and found all of **Odin's** loyal warriors immobilized like statues, restrained by bands of ethereal energy, and helpless before **Seidring**. This was no small-time villain at work!

Into the face of this danger, at half power, **Thor**, who had returned to **Asgard** to face **Odin's** justice, fought a foe charged with **Odin's** power, to save the very **Asgardians** who'd fought him in the Ritual Of Steel, and the father who had condemned him. Being far superior to **Seidring** in valor, though certainly not in power, **Thor** endured the usurper's cosmic onslaught until, in a last desperate gambit, the Lord Of Thunder gripped the Odinsword. Threatening to unsheath the gigantic, legendary blade, and drop it which, according to reliable word of mouth will cause the cosmos to vanish, **Thor** forced **Seidring** to return his ill-gotten Odin Power to its rightful owner. It was done, whereafter, **Odin** lovingly

carried his battered and unconscious son to a place of healing. Meanwhile, new characters were setting **Hercules** up for no good elsewhere, and that brings us to *The Netherworld Trilogy*!

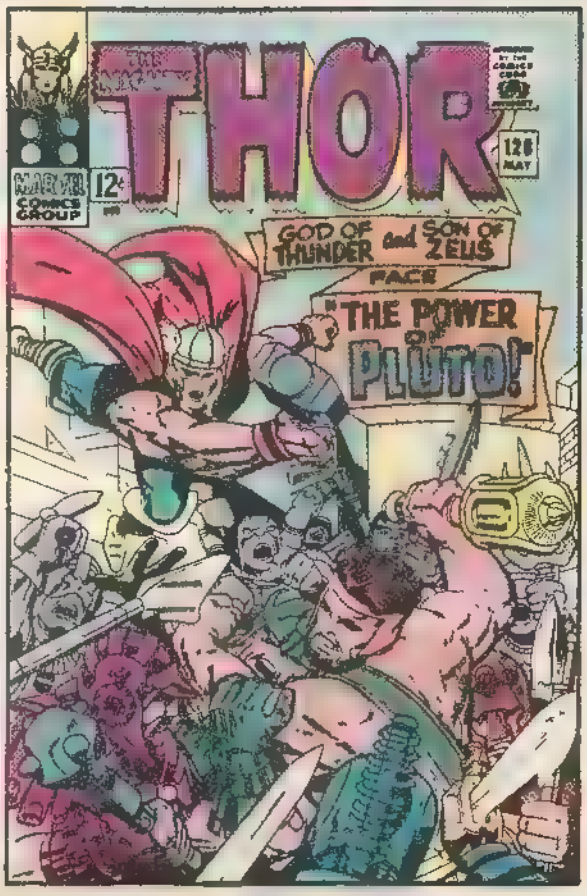
Issue #128 featured the recently-introduced **Pluto** and **Hyppolita**, of Greco-Roman mythological fame — **Lee-Kirby** style! **Pluto**, bitter lord of the **Netherworld** and **Hyppolita**, queen of the **Amazons**, whom **Hercules** had once spurned, ages before, posed as mortal members of a film company featuring, of course, the *real* **Hercules**. The pair tricked the Prince Of Power into signing an Olympian Contract whereby **Hercules** agreed to replace **Pluto** as ruler of the stygian Netherworld for all eternity! **Hercules** violently rebelled at this base deception, and Hell *literally* broke loose!

Meanwhile, **Thor** had recuperated, and returned to Hollywood for a rematch with the Prince Of Power, but dramatic irony twisted his mission. He teamed up with **Hercules** in a first round against the demonic hordes of **Hades**, some of whom **Pluto** had summoned to drag **Hercules** down a transdimensional stairway to the Netherworld. The pair won for the moment.

Issue #129 opened with the famous "**Thor** in a cab" sequence. **Thor**, harassed by curious crowds, was conveniently befriended by a philosophical cabbie, a veteran of Anzio, in W.W.II. As he gave **Thor** a lift to **Jane Foster's** place, the cabbie praised him from the viewpoint of a "regular guy" to a "regular guy," in New York City vernacular. **Thor** was truly warmed.

Only **Stan Lee** could've followed that up by having a startled doorman wonder how to address a Thunder God, or a cabbie remark about not getting paid! This was comic relief for a cosmic epic; **Lee** followed a Shakespearian tradition! Then, **Thor** went up to **Jane's**, and met her mysterious new room-mate, the enchanting **Tana Nile**.

Soon after, **Thor** returned to **Asgard**. He was transported to misty Limbo to await his fulfillment of a prophecy: the *Day Of Three*



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Worlds, in which the Lord Of Thunder would risk all on behalf of another.

Well, **Thor** didn't have to wait in Limbo near the Doorway To All World for long. He heard the plight of **Hercules** in **Olympus**, as the Prince Of Power desperately, vainly, tried to find a champion who would fight in his stead; risk eternity in the Netherworld as the price of defeat, that **Hercules** might be freed of his contractual bond to do so. Not being the most well-liked guy in Olympus, **Hercules's** plight seemed hopeless. With his strength held in check by his father, **Zeus**, **Herc** was, ironically, in a position similar to the one **Thor** had been in, shortly before; and speaking of **Thor** . . .

Issue #130 brought **Thor** out of Limbo, to Olympus, and then, the Netherworld itself. Unable to fight in his own behalf **Hercules** had to watch ineffectually as **Thor** faced the monsterous armored hordes of Hades including the humanoid giant **Cerebus**. This hellish guardian fought using a huge pick-axe and a helmet shooting rays of destruction. It was an incredible battle, a phantasmagoria of costumes and energy.

Rather than see his age-old realm shattered, **Pluto** released **Hercules** from his Olympian Contract, whereupon **Zeus** restored his son's staggering power. The brash but grateful **Hercules** thereby became a friend and ally of **Thor**. The prophecy fulfilled!

The year filled out with the intros of the **Colonizers** (#131), **Ego**, the living planet (#132), and the **New Men**, or **Knights of Wundagore**, and the **High Evolutionary** (#'s 133-135). **Ego** was a being of unimaginable power. His powers of mind-over-matter, and ability to psychically analyze and duplicate matter, were nothing short of mind-staggering. Likewise, the **High Evolutionary** stretched a concept of science to a fantastic new horizon. To sum things up, in **Thor's** epic 1966 adventures, mythology met science fiction, helping the line between science and sorcery to become virtually non-existent in the revolutionary Marvel Universe . . . ●

Bullpen Bulletins

I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT LIKE TO SEE THIS . . .

It originally appeared in *Marvel Age*, our official news magazine. I reprint it here because it's the answer to a question I am frequently asked by people who write in, namely, "what do you *do* as Editor in Chief," and because I've received specific *requests* to reprint it here.

Okay?

When I was a bit younger, one day it occured to me that Marvel Comics could be even better than they were, if only the people who made them would hire a bright, knowledgeable fan — like me — to read over the stuff they were doing before it went out, catch some of the little gaffs, check the continuity, give creative advice from the fan point of view, and in general, guard the integrity of the Marvel Universe.

Well, they *did* hire such a person — me, in fact — back in 1978. Since then, I've learned how hard it is to do all of the above — even when you're vested with the absolute, staggering authority and wonderfully nifty title of Editor in Chief.

It still amazes me sometimes, being Editor in Chief — being pretty much *in charge* of all the comics and magazines Marvel publishes and all of the editors and other people who work on them.

But, I haven't forgotten what the title really should be — something like *Executive Fan Representative*, or maybe *Designated Fan*. And, I haven't lost sight of what I'd hoped to accomplish way back when, before I got this job.

Like I said, as it turns out, it isn't easy.

But, I'm still trying. And I'm getting better at it, I think. I hope you'll agree, after reading about what each of our Marvel Editors has coming up, and I hope you'll agree even more after you've seen it all unfold in the comics issue by issue.

If you don't . . . or even if you do, let me know. You know my address, and you know I read every single letter. Hey, if I'm going to be the DF here, I've got to keep in touch, right?

That's it! To those who already read the above, thanks for your patience, and to those who hadn't, I hope you liked it. Tune in next month for an all-new column. Guaranteed!

Best,

Jim Shooter
Editor in Chief

HYPE BOX

KITTY AND WOLVERINE (Limited Series) #1 — Two of your favorite X-MEN star in their own six-issue limited series! Kitty Pryde uncovers a dreaded secret about her [illegible] and follows him to Japan. Once there, she becomes embroiled in trouble with a powerful Japanese warlord. Will Wolverine be able to save her in time? A [illegible] and illustrated by AL MILGROM!

STARRIORS (Limited Series) #1 — In [illegible] a race of powerful robots. They are divided into two groups — the Protectors and the Destructors. The Protectors have discovered something that could shake the foundations of their civilization! Man may have been more than a legend — he might have really existed! But the Destructors want to stop the Protectors from finding out more . . . at any cost! Four issues of sc[illegible]tion adventure written by LOUISE SIMONSON, penciled by MICHAEL CHEN, inked by IAN AKIN and BRIAN GARVEY. And this first issue features a fabulous cover by BILL SIENKIEWICZ!

BLACK PANTHER (Limited Series) #1 — The King of Wakanda returns in his own four-issue limited series! But there is trouble in Wakanda as the Black Panther faces the greatest crisis of his life! Will he retain his heritage as the ruler of Wakanda, [illegible] become [illegible] the Black Panther no more? Don't miss this Marvel masterpiece by [illegible] DELAROSA!

GRAPHIC NOVEL #12 — STEVE GERBER and VAL MAYERIK, the team who first [illegible] WAR [illegible] Marvel wi[illegible] their latest [illegible]ic creation, [illegible]DIGI[illegible] effort [illegible] about to find out they were wrong! This beautifully painted Graphic Novel launches the new EPIC COMICS series, so don't miss it!

THE OFFICIAL MARVEL COMICS TRY OUT BOOK — Head honcho JIM SHOO[illegible] you on a step-by-step guide [illegible] comics creation process, and give [illegible] a chance to try out you[illegible]lls, to full-size art paper, just like the Marvel pr[illegible] use! It includes pages to color, to letter, to pounding pencils!), to script, and to pencil! You'll even be able to plot your *own ending* to the thrilling SPIDER-MAN tale presented within! Then, if you think your work is [illegible] enough, you can submit your pages to [illegible] Marvel Editor! Don't wait, 'cause this book is great! It's available in comic shops and book stores (that's right, *book stores*) all across the country! If they're sold out, don't despair! *Demand* them to order more [illegible] So you have no excuse to wait any longer! Find out why Marveldom Assembled is singing the praises of the [illegible]

CHECK LIST

- ☐ **THE THING #17**
- ☐ **DAREDEVIL #212**
- ☐ **THE MUPPETS #1, 2 & 3** — Featuring the Marvel adaptation of their new movie, "The Muppets Take Manhattan." Will Marvel ever be the same again?
- ☐ [illegible] **WARS (Limited Series) #7**
- ☐ [illegible] **LAST AVENGERS (Limited [illegible])**
- ☐ **MACHINE MAN (Limited Series) #2**
- ☐ **NEW MUTANTS #21** — Double-sized excitement by CHRIS CLAREMONT and BILL SIENKIEWICZ
- ☐ **CONAN THE KING #26**
- ☐ [illegible] **SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL #4**
- ☐ **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #268**
- ☐ **[illegible]CAPTAIN AMERICA #298**
- ☐ **THOR #[illegible]**
- ☐ **SUB-MARINER (Limited Series) #3**
- ☐ **BLACK PANTHER (Limited Series) #1** — The return of the world's first Black super-hero. See Hype Box.
- ☐ **TRANSFORMERS (Limited Series) #2**
- ☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR ANNUAL #18**
- ☐ **INCREDIBLE HULK #301**
- ☐ **AVENGERS #249**
- ☐ **CONAN THE BARBARIAN #164**
- ☐ **MARVEL TALES #169** — Reprinting "The Claws of the Cat," by STAN LEE and STEVE DITKO, from *Amazing Spider-Man* #30.
- ☐ **X-MEN #187**
- ☐ **ROM #59**
- ☐ **POWER MAN/IRON FIST #111**
- ☐ **G.I. JOE #29**
- ☐ **TEMPLE OF DOOM (Limited Series) #3**
- ☐ **THE LAST STAR FIGHTERS (Limited Series) #2**
- ☐ **THOR ANNUAL #12**
- ☐ **AVENGERS ANNUAL #13**
- ☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR #272** [illegible] *Spider-Man* and *The Human Torch*.
- ☐ **IRON MAN #198**
- ☐ **PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #96**
- ☐ **DEFENDERS #137**
- ☐ **STAR WARS #89**
- ☐ **ALPHA FLIGHT #16**
- ☐ **STARRIORS (Limited Series) #1** — Man is but a legend, and the robots rule. See Hype Box.
- ☐ **HULK ANNUAL #13**
- ☐ **KITTY AND WOLVERINE (Limited Series) #1** — What dark secret is *Kitty's* father trying to hide? See Hype Box.
- ☐ **DOCTOR WHO #2**

MARVEL MAGAZINES

- ☐ **SAVAGE [illegible]MAN #108**
- ☐ **MARVEL FANFARE #17**
- ☐ **MARVEL AGE #20**

EPIC COMICS

- ☐ **EPIC ILLUSTRATED #26**
- ☐ **COYOTE #8**
- ☐ **SIX FROM SIRIUS #3**

ASSORTED GOODIES

- ☐ [illegible] **BANZAI** — The complete Marvel adaptation of the new wild science fiction adventure movie! Written by BILL MANTLO with art by MARK TEXIERA and ARMANDO GIL.
- ☐ **SUPERSPECIAL #34: SHEENA OF THE JUNGLE** — The Queen of the Jungle stars in the Marvel adaptation of her blockbuster movie! Written by CARY BURKETT. Art by GRAY MORROW.
- ☐ **GRAPHIC NOVEL #12: VOID INDIGO** — See Hype Box.

"I WAS A TEENAGE LETTER COLUMN!"

Send your letters to MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE, % Marvel Comics Group 387 Park Avenue South, New York, New York 10016

Welcome back! How about the title for *this* month's mailbag? It's the contribution of *Rick S. Jones* of Argos, Indiana! We thought we'd heard 'em *all* — when along comes this *Jones* character!

By the way, for those of you who think our different choices for letter-column titles are bizarre — nutty — off-the-wall . . . you should see the ones we *don't* print! Cheez!

Dear **MARVEL AGE**,

This amazing little magazine continues to entertain and inform. Issue #17 carried on in good stead. To many super hero fans, having the **Muppets** gracing the cover may have seemed silly. But this is one Marvel Madman who was pleasantly surprised. One of my major vices, besides being an avid comics fan, is being a late-night TV buff. After a pleasant evening with "The Best of Groucho" and "The Burns and Allen Show," my local station is kind enough to give us "David Letterman" and top it all off with the mighty "Muppet Show" which is shown in syndication in this area. I have been a fan of these freaky characters since I was a school boy and fondly remember watching "Sesame Street' just before I'd rush off to class every morning. Now almost fifteen years later I find myself watching "Fraggle Rock" with my godchildren and still enjoying the greatest puppets the world has ever known! The ideals that are present in every **Henson** undertaking are good things, especially for younger readers. I can only trust that the Marvel adaptations of these lovable characters will do them and their fans justice.

The rest of the issue was great. The idea of changing your Coming Attractions to only one month in advance is a good step. It's easy to see how you can run into problems with last minute changes when you spotlight your titles so far in advance. I'm sure you're also going to be saving yourselves a lot of mental anguish in the future! I can't wait to see the upcoming **SUB-MARINER** and **BEAUTY AND THE BEAST Limited Series!**

Your interview with **John Romita, Jr.** was pretty good and made me admire this very underrated artist even more. To hear that **John** never really gets tired of a series that he's drawing is very reassuring in a day when artists and writers change strips so often. **Mr. Romita** and **Mr. Green's** current exciting work on **the X-MEN** may yet outdo the spectacular **Byrne** period. You also asked readers whom they'd like to see interviewed. I give my vote to **Barry Windsor-Smith.** Marvel fans know that he has finally come out of retirement with his recent work in **MARVEL FANFARE** and his upcoming **X-MEN.** I would like to know why he came out of retirement. Does he still do artwork outside the comics field? Does he have plans to do any series on a regular basis? This would be great.

In closing I thank you for your informative articles on writing, inking, and drawing comics. I wish that in the future you'd present exactly the type of plot writers would be expected to submit. Your letters page was as interesting as ever. My favorites this time were the ones from Nigeria and the West Indes. I'm sorry to hear about the current state in Nigeria, but I was very proud of your reply to this letter. It's good to know that Marvel really cares and it is great to know that we have Marvelite brothers and sisters overseas!

Bill D. Middleton
1010 Connelly
Clovis, NM 88101

Rest assured that the Marvel treatments of all *Muppet, Fraggle,* and *Henson* creations will be top-notch! We too grew up with those lovable and outrageous creatures. We'll do 'em right.

In answer to your inquiry, *Jim Shooter* printed an excerpt from a typical Marvel plot in "*Shooter's Page*" for *MARVEL FANFARE #6*, for the benefit of budding writers such as yourself.

By the way, that sounds like a great line-up of late night TV you've got out there!

Dear **Mr. Sallcrup**,

Only Marvel Comics are true to life. **G.I. JOE** is awesome! **IRON MAN** is absolutely incredible! **CAPTAIN AMERICA** is great! No one can beat Marvel!

I would like a special book like **MARVEL UNIVERSE** to show the **G.I. Joe** dossiers. I'd like to know each **Joe's** rank, job, primary and secondary specialties and file number.

Incidentally, my little brother thinks no-prizes are stupid, but I

would feel rather distinguished owning one.

David R. Martin
86 Tyler Drive
Willingboro, NJ 08046

That's something you and your brother will have to settle between yourselves, *David*! And, check out this issue's *G.I. Joe* update for some detailed information about the newest Joes — and don't miss the upcoming *G.I. JOE YEARBOOK* which should answer all your queries!

Hey **Jim** and **Mark**!

I saw your commercial for the **TRANSFORMERS Limited Series** for the first time today, and it featured some of the best animation since **Walt Disney**!

Stanley Johnson
P.O. Box 842
Yazoo City, MS 39194

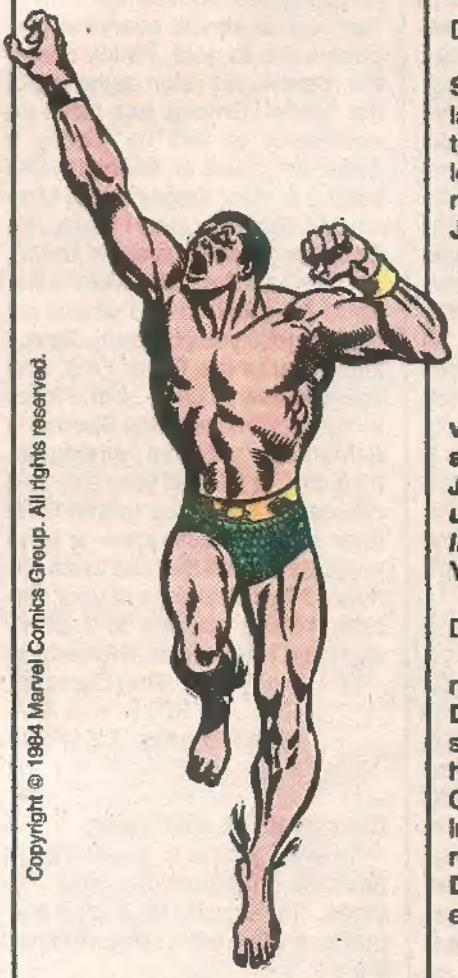
Isn't it great? Not only that, but the *TRANSFORMERS Limited Series* is a big hit, too — if a truckload of mail and sell-out sales reports are any indication! Get on the bandwagon, *Stan — TRANSFORMERS* in '84!

Dear **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE**,

I pay close attention to your New Talent Department, and I really think **Kyle Baker** is something! He's more than talented. If **Kyle Baker** drew the **X-Men** I'd hang on ends every month until the issue would come out. What 'ya say? The guy's good. I also enjoyed your expanded Coming Attractions, Newswatch, Marvel Age: 1966, and **Fred Hembeck's** page . . . and last but not least, **Forbush-Man**! Keep it up, Marvel!

Derek Wormherd
2513 Thornlodge Drive
Mississauga, Ontario
CANADA L5K 1K8

Yup! It's true. *Kyle*'s the latest up-and-coming superstar — but will success spoil him? Before *MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE* #18 came out, he was just a nice, hard workin' kid — but since we ran his artwork, he just lolls about the swimming pool signing autographs! Next thing you know, he'll take to wearing shades and a sequined glove all the time! Sheesh!



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Dear Marvel,

I was eating breakfast one day watching television when I saw your commercial for **the Starriors**! Then I read about them in **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE** #16. The page of **Michael Chen's** art is excellent! I can't wait for **STARRIORS** to come out — I think it should be a regular comic, and not just a **Limited Series**!

Mike Kollmansberger
1526 Heritage Drive
Garland, TX 75043

Who says we're not taking over the world? Not *Weezie*, *Mike Chen*, *Akin* and *Garvey*! They're putting the cream of their talents into this awesome epic, friend *Kollmansberger*! *STARRIORS* may thrill you — it may surprise you — but it *isn't* going to *disappoint* you!

Dear **Mr. Shooter**,

I loved your editorial about **Jim Salicrup** in issue #17. I literally laughed my guts out! I'd like to say that you guys are doing an excellent job producing an excellent news magazine. By the way, does **Jim** really wear those glasses?

Leslie Lovas
6 Forsyth Bay
Regina, Saskatchewan
CANADA S4R 6E6

Why of course! Doubt you the veracity of our lord high muck-a-muck and Editor in Chief *Jim Shooter*? Now *you* answer *us* one, *Leslie* — did you *literally* laugh your guts out? Yeeeeccchhhh!

Dear **Jim** and **Mark**,

It's about time Marvel recognized the almost-cult following of **Doctor Who**! Many people, myself included, have long awaited his American comic book debut! One question — will the new deluxe **DR. WHO** series only feature re-presentations from the British **DR. WHO WEEKLY**, or will it eventually feature all-new stuff?

Richard B. Martin
P.O. Box 10631
Eugene, OR 97404

That depends on one thing — reader demand! For the time being, it'll reprint the great adventures from the British book! And if enough of you *Who*-maniacs demand it . . . *who* knows what may happen!

Dear **Marvel Agers**,

You gotta help me! For years I've been building up a fine collection of comics. I've taken great precautions to make sure they retain their condition, including the use of cardboard boxes for storage, plastic bags, and cardboard backing which I cut myself and insert into the bags to keep the

comics from bending. I had heard of the rumored dangers of acid in cardboard but I tended to ignore them because only a handful of people I knew were making this claim and they were usually the ones who were interested in selling me "acid-free" cardboard backings at 20 cents a shot. Well, I got a rude awakening when I read in the newest price guide about the dangers of the acid. Although this disturbed me, the real shocker was an article on how plastic bags could damage my collection unless they were "mylar," and I've been thinking that plastic bags protect! There was also mention that I could chemically treat my comics . . . ? I really need some answers . . . fast! To what extent will acid in cardboard damage my comics? How fast? Will normal plastic bags really damage comics or is this just a plot by people who want to sell high-priced mylar bags? What is chemical treating? I don't know whom to turn to for answers. I hope you can help.

Bob Dekeukelaere
R.R. 6 Simcoe
Ontario, CANADA N34 4K5

If your comics are stored so that they come in direct contact with cardboard, you really should be sure that the cardboard is acid-free. As for plastic bags — the mylar ones are preferable to normal ones. However, just storing the comics in acid free boxes with *no* bags is perfectly fine, because paper products need to "breathe" over time. Just don't store them under leaky pipes or something like that. Keep some bags on hand in case you want the comics to travel, for instance when you take 'em over to a friend's house on a rainy day! The damage that acid and "overprotection" can do to comics is slow, and gradual — but it's something the serious collector can easily avoid.

Dear **Stan Lee**,

This is a challenge. I read in **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE** that you're going to script two upcoming stories. I think that's great. **Stan**, you were always the greatest. You created the greatest line of characters outside of **Proust** and put them in a continuity that is gratifying to keep up with. But not only did you give us great comics, you gave us a great editor, **Jim Shooter. Jim** has definitely had a significant effect on the way people look at comics right now. It seems that almost everything he does turns to gold. I think one of the reasons his reign at the top of the Marvel Empire has been so successful is that he places a major emphasis on continuity. I'm having a great time with the Marvel line right now, and I thank **Jim Shooter. Shooter** is at his zenith, and he pulls the entire Marvel line up to his level. That's where my challenge to you comes in, **Stan**. I know you're the Great One, and you deserve to be . . . but a lot of us have gotten spoiled by **Shooter's** demanding editorial standards. It's going to take all your skill and dedication to rise up to that level after so long a hiatus — a level you created and that has been enhanced by the visions of your disciple. I know you can do it, **Stan**, and I can't wait to see it! Excelsior!

Ron Drescher
828 S. Holt Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90035

Dear **MARVEL AGE Gang**,

Your magazine is great. It's interesting, informative, and, at times, humorous. But the big question is — will it be worth anything?

Ed Hughes
102 Tiger Drive
Wentzville, MO 63385

You bet your archives it will, Ed! Why, years from now these very issues will be worth a fortune! When our New Talent stars all reach the height of comics greatness they're destined for, collectors will gobble up these samples of their early work! When future generations of comics scholars want to research the great era we're living in, they'll turn to *MARVEL AGE* as a document! And when *Jim Sallcrup* wins his first Pulitzer Prize, people will *fight* for these priceless printings! Better start buying multiple copies *now*!

Dear **Jim** and **Mark**,

Here's a few suggestions to improve your great magazine. First, more interviews . . . feature length. I'd die to see an interview with comics' most innovative artists like **Bill Sienkiewicz**, **Butch Guice**, **John Bolton**, **Paul Smith**, **Michael Golden**, and **Barry Windsor-Smith**.

Also, more artwork . . . a regular pin-up section would be a great addition. Just like the files you've done on **G.I. Joe**, you could do more characters who could benefit from an appearance on these pages, like **Wonderman**, **Iceman**, **Razorback**, **White Tiger**, **Sub-Mariner**, and **Mockingbird**.

Do more news work and bring in reports on what certain artists and writers are doing outside of comics. I would love to see what the mysterious **Mike Ploog**, **John Romita, Sr.**, and **Mike Golden** do in between their super special assignments. It'd be great to hear.

I'll end this with a round of applause to you folks at Marvel who have the best super talent contributing to your magazines. Thank you.

Mark Waldman
9639 Amigo Avenue
Northridge, CA 91324

That about wraps it up for this month, except for one final missive . . .

Dear Gang,

You've got every title imaginable out except for one — **Dirty Harry**! How about a **Limited Series** starring **Clint Eastwood** as **Harry Callan**?

Davis Tulleck
115 Chadwick Road
Louisville, KY

Go ahead, *Davis* . . . make our day!

And so (yeowch!), as another issue of *MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE* draws to a close, we bid thee a fond farewell! Til next we meet, stay well — and keep thinking Marvel! 'Bye now!

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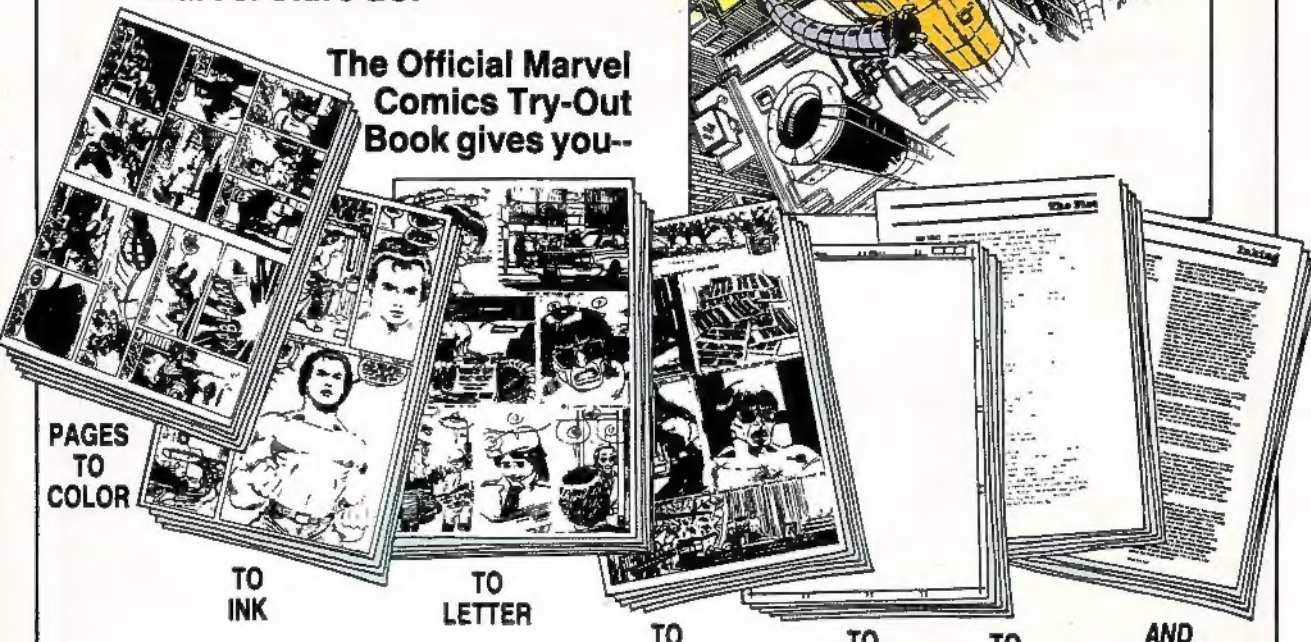

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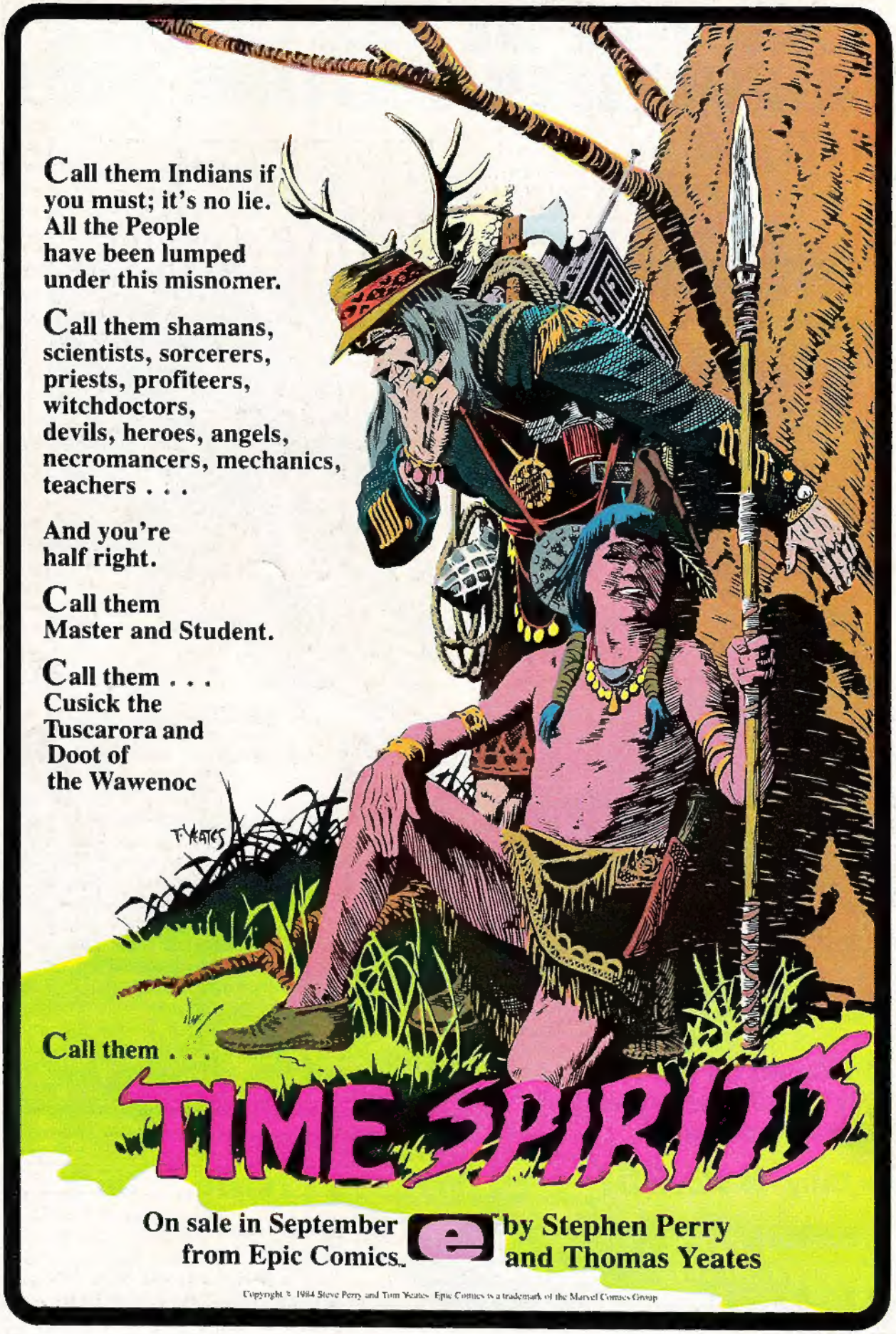
Call them Indians if you must; it's no lie. All the People have been lumped under this misnomer.
Call them shamans, scientists, sorcerers, priests, profiteers, witchdoctors, devils, heroes, angels, necromancers, mechanics, teachers . . .
And you're half right.
Call them Master and Student.
Call them . . . Cusick the Tuscarora and Doot of the Wawenoc
T. YEATES
Call them . . .
TIME SPIRITS
On sale in September from Epic Comics.
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